FBIS DAILY REPORT

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SENIOR PALESTINIAN DELEGATION UNDER 'ARAFAT LEAVES FOR MOSCOW

JN2917527 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1740 GMT 29 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 29 October--Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, left Damascus today for the Soviet Union, leading a PLO delegation, in response to an official invitation from the Soviet leadership.

The delegation includes Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council [PNC]; 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, Zuhayr Muhsin and Talal Naji, members of the PLO Executive Committee; Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the Central Committee of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, FATAH; and Salih Ra'fat, member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DPFLP].

INA: 'ARAFAT, CPSU DELEGATION BEGIN TALKS IN MOSCOW

JN3011077 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT 30 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Moscow, 30 October--Talks began today here between Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, and a CPSU delegation.

PLO sources, which reported this today, explained that the talks revolved around Palestinian-Soviet relations and the recent developments in the Palestine question and the situation in the Middle East.

'Arafat arrived in Moscow last night at the head of a PLO delegation on a visit of several days to the Soviet Union.

PLO'S QADDUMI ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN2909457 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 29 Oct 78 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 29 October--As of tomorrow, Baghdad will host the conference of the Arab foreign ministers. The ministers began arriving as of yesterday to attend the conference.

Chairman of the PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi has also arrived, leading a delegation to attend the Arab foreign ministers conference. In a statement, Qaddumi said: We greet Iraq's initiative calling for convening the Arab summit conference. He said that this initiative comes at a delicate time in the history of our Arab nation in which the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy of Camp David was hatched to be imposed on the Arab nation.

Qaddumi said: In our view the conference will face and foil all the results of this conspiracy through confrontation and responsible, serious action. He expressed his hope that the conference will succeed. He hailed the October charter signed in Baghdad by Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on Thursday. He said this is a clear indication and a decisive step to stand up to all plots.

The delegation accompanying Qaddumi includes two PLO Executive Committee members and 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, Khalid al-Hasan, Shafiq al-Hut and Basil 'Akl.

SYRIA'S KHADDAM MEETS IN BAGHDAD WITH ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS

JN 292132Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 29 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 29 October--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met this evening in the As-Salam Palace with PDRY Foreign Minister Muhammad Salih Muti', head of the PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi, Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Fitouri, Jordanian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim, Libyan Foreign Secretary 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam at-Turayki and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

During the meeting, they discussed the topics which are listed on the agenda of the Arab foreign ministers conference.

The SANA correspondent in Baghdad has learned that at the opening session of the Arab foreign ministers conference tomorrow Khaddam will deliver the speech of the Syrian Arab Republic, in which he will emphasize the constant and principled stand of confronting the designs of capitulation which U.S. imperialism and world Zionism want to impose on the Arabs through the treason of Egyptian ruler Anwar as-Sadat.

The SANA correspondent has also learned that Khaddam will submit to the Arab foreign ministers conference a Syrian working paper asserting the need to adhere to the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences, particularly the Algiers and Rabat summits, and emphasizing the need to implement the charter of the Arab League and the resolutions of the Arab League Council against the state that departs from the Arab will and relinquishes Arab rights.

ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE BEGINS IN BAGHDAD

JN300848Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 30 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 30 October--The meetings of the Arab foreign ministers conference began at As-Salam Palace a while ago to draw up the agenda of the Arab summit conference scheduled to be held in Baghdad Thursday. The opening session of the Arab foreign ministers conference is attended by delegations of 19 Arab countries. They are: Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, the PDRY, Libya, Djibouti, Tunisia, Somalia, Algeria--represented by its minister of culture--Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Iraq and Sudan--represented by its ambassador in Cairo--and PLO representatives.

The foreign ministers of Lebanon and the YAR are expected to arrive later today; thus, all the Arab countries except Egypt will be represented at the conference.

Iraq had called for holding the conference of the Arab foreign ministers in Baghdad to define the agenda of the Arab summit conference.

Iraqi Foreign Minister's Address

JN301003Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 30 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 30 October--The Arab foreign ministers conference was opened this morning by Abdurahman Jama Barre, Somali minister of foreign affairs and chairman of the previous Arab foreign ministers conference.

The Somali minister proposed the election of Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi as chairman of the conference. Dr Hammadi was elected unanimously.

In a speech he delivered at the conference, Dr Hammadi stressed Iraq's concern to reach an Arab agreement which will constitute the joint minimum action required to confront the enemy and which would be approved by all and implemented with loyalty and sincerity.

Dr Hammadi added that Iraq stresses that the Arab summit conference's objective is to study the current Arab situation and to agree on joint, serious steps to defend the rights and the fateful issues and to prevent the Arab nation from being exposed to the dangers of division and dismemberment.

Dr Hammadi also stressed that the Iraqi initiative calling for the convening of an Arab summit conference stemmed from Iraq's deep realization of the danger of the current Arab situation and of the results and consequences of one Arab country dealing separately with a fateful pan-Arab issue such as the Palestinian cause in violation of Arab summit resolutions.

The Iraqi foreign minister added that the separate dealing with the Palestinian cause by one country had taken place without any prior consultations or agreement with the other Arab countries on a unified and collective working plan dealing with the central issue and in contradiction of joint Arab action since the inception of the Arab League and up to this time. Dr Hammadi stressed that Iraq is participating in the Arab foreign ministers conference with an open heart and mind and realizes the special circumstances and situations of certain Arab countries and the existence of different viewpoints among the Arab brothers at times.

Dr Hammadi called on the Arab countries to take into consideration the fact that they belong to one nation and homeland and they have been united by fate, objectives and common interests and that they are confronting a common enemy.

Dr Hammadi added that this requires Arab countries to bypass differences and particularities and be ready to provide more sacrifices. Dr Sa'dun Hammadi asserted that Iraq does not intend to impose its views and stands on its brothers. This stems from Iraq's appreciation of the particularities of every Arab state and of the Arab countries' views on the Arab issues and their interpretation of these issues.

He said that Iraq, out of its eagerness to preserve Arab solidarity and unity of the ranks, hopes that the conference will adopt recommendations to confront the serious situation and pave the way for the Arab summit conference to reach an agreement on the final formula of resolutions--resolutions that would remedy the serious situation through which the Arab nation is passing, restore confidence to the nation's sons and restore Arab solidarity to confront the common enemy and the aggressive schemes and to regain the usurped rights of the Arab people.

The Iraqi foreign minister said that As-Sadat's action is very serious for the contemporary history of the Arab nation. The impact of this action is not confined to Egypt but reaches the Arab homeland.

He added that the establishment of ties with the Zionist enemy after the visit to occupied Jerusalem and the subsequent agreements at Camp David gravely harm the Arab nation both in form and substance and from the material and moral aspects.

He asserted that the political interpretation can no longer be such that all private and regional considerations are placed above the Arab nation's interest. The case here is the Arab-Zionist conflict.

He asserted that the Arab countries are capable of reaching an agreement constituting joint minimum action necessary to deploy all resources and forces to put an end to the Arab collapse.

At the same time every Arab state would maintain its theory and method in its action against the Zionist presence. Every state would remain free to go further if it wishes.

Dr Sa'dun Hammadi said: We have two alternatives. We either cling to our particularities as far as our way of thinking and situation are concerned or have the supreme pan-Arab interest outweigh the differences in the situation and interpretations.

He expressed confidence that everybody will realize that the successive events, the latest of which is taking place at Blair House, are gravely harming the Arab homeland. The Egyptian people will be the first to be harmed by these events because they will find themselves far from the course of their Arab brothers. The Egyptian people will realize that they are a springboard for implementing the enemy's schemes and goals which are aimed at thwarting our joint efforts to achieve our pan-Arab objectives for which our masses are struggling and which were stipulated in the Arab League Charter and supported by the conferences of the Arab kings and presidents. Dr Hammadi stressed that Arab brothers realize that the results of the negotiations currently taking place in Washington will lead to relinquishing Arab rights and sovereignty and will be a stab at the struggle for Palestine.

Dr Hammadi added that the contents of the negotiations and the Camp David agreements are nothing but legalization of Zionist greed for the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan and even Sinai.

It has become obvious from the progress of events that the Arab masses and leaders in the Arab countries do not condone the process of separate action and a losing bargain in connection with a cause affecting the core of Arab fate, because the inevitable results of the separate action will be a consolidation of the Zionist entity, increase in its provocations and encouragement to it to carry out further aggression. The definite results of such separate actions will also be to foil joint Arab defense objectives, making them useless, and to violate Arab League resolutions and belittle pledges by the kings and presidents concerning the defense of the Arab character of Palestine and its liberation.

Dr Hammadi said he believes that the losing capitulationist settlement counters resolutions by the United Nations and the nonalined movement. "We do not rule out that the first results of the settlement would be the weakening and shaking of Afro-Arab solidarity and encouraging some African countries to abandon the Arabs and end their boycott of the Zionist entity under the pretext that peace has been declared between Egypt and this entity, not to mention the colonialist pressures to be placed on these countries. Thus, the momentous danger for the future of the Arab struggle becomes manifest, emphasizing the importance of joint Arab action now."

Concluding his speech, the Iraqi foreign minister pointed out that Iraq has prepared a draft working paper to be submitted at this meeting. The working paper deals with the serious Arab situation in the wake of the Camp David conference and the results ensuing from it. The working paper also tries to deal with the situation by submitting suitable and practical solutions. "According to our concept, these proposals constitute the minimum upon which everybody would agree. We are confident that this draft working paper will be studied and discussed in a unified manner."

Following the speech, the public session was adjourned and the closed session began.

Closed Session Begins

JN3010017Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 30 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 30 October--The Arab foreign ministers adjourned their public session and began a closed session some time ago.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi is expected to hold a press conference after the session.

Session Ends

JN2011105Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 30 October--The closed session of the Arab foreign ministers ended here a while ago. The conference first held an open session and then a closed one.

PLO'S 'ARAFAT EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR SYRIAN-IRAQI DECISIONS

JN271258Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Beirut--Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has praised the decisions of the Syrian-Iraqi summit meeting and stressed that these decisions will help restore the balance of power in the Arab region.

At a meeting held in Beirut yesterday in support of the Palestinian Arabs in the occupied Arab territories, Yasir 'Arafat said: The Baghdad decisions are in harmony with those adopted by the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation.

'Arafat then talked about the capitulatory course of the Egyptian regime and said: The commitments the Egyptian ruler Anwar as-Sadat made to the Zionist enemy will not succeed because the decision is in the hands of the Arab people only. He added that the Palestinian revolution is able to reply to the enemy and to those collaborating with him.

'Arafat stressed that the PLO is not against peace as portrayed, but it is against capitulation.

PFLP LEADER HABASH CABLES SUPPORT TO IRAQI PRESIDENT

JN291125Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 29 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 29 October--Dr George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has said that the Baghdad charter has reactivated hopes in the ability of the Arab masses to rise and act seriously to confront the Camp David agreements and the treasonous settlement plans. In a cable to President al-Bakr on the occasion of the signing of the charter between Syria and Iraq, Habash said: Building a strong northern front is the essential prelude to confronting the dangers menacing our Arab nation and its pan-Arab issues. He further said: We consider the Palestinian revolution an indivisible part of the combat front and the combat vanguard inside the occupied land and across the Arab borders.

BAGHDAD VOP: FATAH'S KHALAF URGES RELATIONS WITH JORDAN

JN291904Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Oct 78 JN

[Text] In a statement to be published by the isolationist magazine MONDAY MORNING in Beirut tomorrow, Salah Khalaf [second-in-command of the Fatah movement] said that the PLO is working for the restoration of relations with the regime in Jordan. He added that strong relations based on mutual respect should be established between the PLO and Jordan for many reasons, as he said. Salah Khalaf made no reference to the "many reasons."

Regarding the relations of the PLO's leadership with the United States, Khalaf said: The United States has so far refused to establish relations with it. He called on the United States to stop ignoring the PLO's leadership.

PLO SPOKESMAN: ALL FACTIONS ATTEND PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL

JN272000Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 29 Oct 78 JN

[Text] The PLO Central Council held a meeting [presumably in Damascus] today under Mr Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council. The meeting was attended by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Official PLO Spokesman 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar has stated that the council's current session is being attended by all the factions of the Palestinian resistance without exception. He added that the session is devoted to the approval of the plan for the national unity of the Palestinians on both the political and organizational levels.

Mr Abu Mayzar said that the Central Council will approve the plan for national unity and submit it to the Palestine National Council for approval. The council, he added, will discuss the issue of fixing a date for the convening of the Palestine National Council and also the latest developments on the Arab and international levels.

DAMASCUS REPORTS ON PCC MEETING; PNC TO MEET IN DECEMBER

JN281852Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 28 October--The PLO Central Council [PCC] has hailed the joint national action charter between Syria and Iraq, considering it an important step in the field of consolidating the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation--whose central link is made up of Syria and the PLO--and confronting the Camp David conspiracy and its results.

The Central Council, which concluded its work in Damascus at an early hour this morning, has decided to call the Palestine National Council [PNC] into session in the second half of next December.

In its meeting under Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council, and in the presence of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, as well as representatives of all the Palestinian revolution factions, the council discussed the political and organizational national unity project that was approved by the national unity committee stemming from the Central Council as a prelude to submitting the project to the Palestine National Council at its next meeting.

Following the meeting, Khalid al-Fahum stated that the council's members have expressed their deep satisfaction at this important accomplishment that constitutes a basic step for the continuation of the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people and their victory.

The council also reviewed current political developments, especially the situation inside the occupied homeland and the self-rule conspiracy, in addition to all the accomplishments and steps undertaken by the Executive Committee to confront the Camp David results at the United Nations and contacts with the Arab, Islamic, African, nonalined and socialist states. It also reviewed what has been achieved at the meetings of the foreign ministers of the nonalined states and the Islamic countries for convening an Islamic summit on the conspiracy against Jerusalem.

The council also discussed what the Palestinian delegation will submit to the Arab summit meeting in Baghdad and adopted the necessary recommendations, foremost of which is the importance of stressing the need to implement the resolutions of the Arab summit in Algiers and Rabat, especially those resolutions stressing the right of the Palestinian Arab people to repatriation, self-determination and rejection of any attempt aimed at obliterating the rights of the Palestinian Arab people or any settlement concluded at their expense or in their absence.

PLO'S 'ARAFAT ADDRESSES RALLY IN DAMASCUS

JN280823Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 28 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has asserted that the Palestinian revolution is more powerful than the hirelings and plots and that the revolution's victory is inevitable. 'Arafat also asserted that the Arab nation will wipe out all hirelings and plotters.

This came in a speech 'Arafat made at the popular rally held by the Palestinian masses in Al-Yarmuk camp under the slogan "Glory to the Struggle of our Steadfast People in the Occupied Territories."

'Arafat asserted the PLO's support for the struggle of the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland. He declared the cohesion of the Palestinian people abroad with our strugglers in the occupied homeland.

Alluding to As-Sadat's attempt to divert Egypt from the battlefield, 'Arafat said that what took place at Camp David constitutes a plot against the Arab nation. Others also delivered speeches at the rally greeting the heroic struggle being waged by the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories and their resistance of the Camp David plot. At the end of the rally, the conferees issued a statement denouncing the treasonous Camp David agreements. They asserted the unity of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied homeland under the leadership of the PLO, in its capacity as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The statement urges all the Arab governments, parties and masses to unite their efforts and marshal all resources to wipe out the As-Sadat-Zionist plot and to support the national movement in Egypt in its struggle against the collusion and defeatism of As-Sadat. The statement praises the charter of the joint national action between Syria and Iraq as a significant step toward consolidating the Arab steadfastness against the U.S.-Israeli settlement being imposed on the Arab nation.

SAUDI ARABIA

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON BAGHDAD CONFERENCE

LD281308Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Oct 78 LD

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, will leave for Baghdad tomorrow afternoon to attend the Arab foreign ministers conference. Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has made a statement to the SAUDI NEWS AGENCY in which he spoke about the aims of the Baghdad conference. He said:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's understanding and conception of the aims of the Baghdad conference are represented by the Arab desire to protect the Arab stand on the Middle East question and its developments against all negative influences, to work to preserve the firmness and strength of this stand in order to promote the fundamental Arab cause, and to achieve positive, new elements favoring a solution.

Asked about rumors that one of the aims of the conference is to isolate Egypt for accepting the results of Camp David, his royal highness said: Regardless of whether one assesses the results of Camp David positively or negatively--and the kingdom has already made its stand in this respect clear through a cabinet statement issued at the time--isolating Egypt and isolating the Egyptian people from the Arab nation is absolutely unimaginable. Egypt is an indivisible part of the Arab nation, the Egyptian people's roots in Arabism are deep and of enormous continuity. This is the destiny of Egypt and the destiny of the Egyptian people.

This is the first point to be made. Another point is that isolating Egypt--whatever private efforts it makes regarding the Middle East question--would not benefit the fundamental Arab cause, but would only harm it. The welfare of the Arab cause, should always be the gauge and the standard by which actions are weighed. This is the objective way in which we should view matters. To marshal Arab forces in the service of the Arab cause, not to dismember them, should be our goal, whether at this conference or later.

Regarding the kingdom's stand on the trend regarding the purpose of the conference, his royal highness the foreign minister said: What I have said about the understanding and conception of the purpose of the summit conference represents the general Arab trend, as ascertained by the kingdom through its consultations and contacts with various Arab countries. The kingdom's stand is in line with the general Arab trend of protecting the Arab position, bolstering its steadfastness and marshaling Arab forces in the service of our greater cause on an objective basis.

Asked about talk that the Arab effort to isolate Egypt had already been initiated by the failure to invite it to attend the Baghdad conference and whether he viewed this as true, his royal highness said: As far as I know, and this has been confirmed by officials in Iraq, which initiated the invitations to the summit conference, the purpose of the conference is not to isolate Egypt but to restore confidence among all Arab countries in the interest of the cause. An invitation to attend the conference was sent to Egypt through the Arab League. Egypt was invited to attend the conference and to take part in it in order to continue to serve the cause. We trust the intentions of all Arab countries vis-a-vis the cause, regardless of their methods of dealing with it. God willing, the conference will be a good opportunity to study the cause and its developments in an objective manner that will realize our collective Arab desire to serve our cause.

SYRIAN BA'TH PARTY OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN JIDDA

LD281842Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1815 GMT 28 Oct 78 LD

[Summary- Jidda, 28 Oct 78, SNA--Dr Rif'at al-Asad, member of the regional command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and brother of President al-Asad of Syria, arrived in Jidda this evening for a visit to the Kingdom. He was welcomed at the airport by Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard.

Received by Crown Prince

LD281844Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1815 GMT 28 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Jiddah, 28 Oct 78, SNA--Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, regent and crown prince, received Dr Rif'at al-Asad, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and commander of the defense units, and the accompanying delegation. The meeting took place in the presence of Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, at 1945 this evening at the royal palace in Jidda.

YEMEN--PDRY

MILITARY RANKS AWARDED TO LEADERS

LD292146Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Oct 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidential Council and Council of Ministers today issued a Republican decree bestowing military ranks. Here is the decree:

In the name of the people and in the name of the Presidential Council and after perusal of Articles 92 and 127 of the constitution and Law No (730) of 1971 and in appreciation of the struggle and sacrifices made with all courage and sincerity during the [word indistinct] the armed struggle represented by the resistance to British colonialism and its assistance and the sincere efforts to maintain national independence and entrench the democratic national authority and the protection of the Yemeni revolution against the ambitions of imperialism, and reaction and resist with all determination the attempts to abort the glorious 14 October revolution [words indistinct] and protection of the Yemeni homeland, its integrity and national sovereignty, the Presidential Council has resolved the following:

Article one: Those whose names follow hereunder have been awarded the military ranks indicated (?against their names):

Brothers 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, (?brigadier); 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. brigadier; Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, colonel; Muhammad Salih Muti', colonel; 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali, colonel; 'Ali Salim al-Bid, colonel; Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, colonel; 'Ali Shayi Hadi, colonel; Sa'id Salih Salim, lieutenant colonel; and, Ahmad 'Ali Sa'id, major.

Article two: This decree becomes effective from the date of issue.

Article three: This decree will be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

YEMEN--YAR

ABORTIVE COUP RINGLEADERS EXECUTED BY FIRING SQUAD

JN271804Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Oct 78 JN

[Excerpts] The military court yesterday ended its sessions devoted to trying the first group of the treacherous clique which carried out a rebellion and mutiny the morning of 15 October with the aim of overthrowing the just and patriotic republican regime and violating the sanctity of the permanent constitution. In accordance with the provisions of articles 135, 136, 137, 138 and 139 of military penal code No 15 of 1975, the military court stripped the following renegade traitors of their military ranks and sentenced them to execution by firing squad: Muhsin Ahmad Falah, 'Abdallah Salih (?ar-Raziqi), Muhammad (?Marzuq al-Fulayhi), 'Abd al-Wasi' al-Ash'ari, Mayhub 'Ali al-'Urfi, Qasim Mansur Isma'il at-Taybani, 'Abd al-'Aziz Muhammad Ghassan, Husayn 'Abdallah Munassar, and Ahmad Mutahhar Mutayyib. They have been executed by firing squad after having been stripped of their military rank.

Thus every agent, conspirator and traitor meets his punishment and the consequences of his agentry, plotting and treason against the people, the homeland, the revolution and the just and patriotic republican regime.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES SOVIET, IRAQI AMBASSADORS

JN281351Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Oct 78 JN

[Text] President 'Ali Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, at 1200 today received the Soviet ambassador in San'a', Vasili Kornev. During the meeting, President Salih and the Soviet ambassador touched on bilateral relations.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih later received the Iraqi ambassador to the YAR, Taha Yasin al-'Ali. During their meeting, the discussion revolved around bilateral relations.

PRESIDENTIAL DECREE APPOINTS PUBLIC SECURITY DIRECTOR

JN271840Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Presidential decree No 8 appointing a public security director: Taking cognizance of the permanent constitution and the constitutional declaration of 6 February 1978 on the formation of the Constituent People's Assembly, amended by the constitutional declaration of 17 April 1975; the constitutional declaration of 17 April 1978 on the implementation of the Constituent People's Assembly decision defining the form, jurisdiction and duration of the presidency; the presidential decree incorporated in law No 6 of 1968 on the police force formation law; Command Council decision No 1 of 1975 on the formation of the Interior Ministry; at the recommendation of the interior minister; and following the approval of the Council of Ministers, the president of the republic decrees:

Article 1. Lt Col Qa'id al-Qatta' is appointed director of public security.

Article 2. This decision becomes affective as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the presidential palace on 27 October 1978. [Signed] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces; 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister; Lt Col 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Barati, interior minister.

REPORTAGE, COMMENT CONTINUES ON WASHINGTON TALKS

Ghurbal on Vance Meeting

NC280646Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0045 GMT 27 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Washington, 27 October--Egypt's Ambassador to the United States Ashraf Ghurbal has stated that the Egyptian delegation's meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance was very useful.

In a statement on behalf of Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the defense minister and leader of the Egyptian delegation to the peace discussions, Dr Ghurbal said that the meeting provided an opportunity to continue the discussions begun with Vance on Wednesday. The Egyptian ambassador described these discussions as very fruitful.

Asked whether the two leaders of the Egyptian delegation will return to Cairo, Ghurbal said that the Egyptian delegation has not received any instructions from Cairo and that the two leaders are waiting for a decision in this regard.

The official spokesman of the peace conference, George Sherman, has stated that the Egyptian delegation has received no instructions to return to Cairo for consultations.

The remarks by Ghurbal and Sherman were made after newsmen received reports from Cairo that Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil had stated that Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Dr Butrus Ghali would return to Cairo for 2 or 3 days to hold consultations.

Sherman said after the meeting that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will remain in touch with the Egyptian and Israeli delegations during the next few days.

Regarding the meeting between Vance and the Israeli delegation, Sherman said that the Israeli delegation was given the opportunity to explain in detail the position of the Israeli Government on the draft peace treaty. Sherman added that Vance continued with the Egyptians the discussions which they began on Wednesday.

MENA Cites Delegation Spokesman

NC281704Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1647 GMT 28 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Washington, 28 October--It has been decided that the Egyptian delegation will stay in Washington to continue with the peace talks.

A spokesman for the Egyptian delegation stated this morning that President Anwar as-Sadat has received an urgent message from U.S. President Jimmy Carter on the latest developments. President as-Sadat also received a comprehensive report from Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali, defense minister and head of the Egyptian delegation on the course of the negotiations after his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance Friday evening.

In view of these developments it has been decided that for the time being Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali will not go to Cairo for consultation. The Egyptian delegation will maintain close contact with the U.S. secretary of state to follow developments and assess the situation.

U.S., JORDAN, ISRAEL REPORTEDLY TO BEGIN TALKS

NC291005Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0938 GMT 29 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 29 October--The magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF reports that now that Jordan has received the U.S. replies to King Husayn's questions regarding the Camp David agreements, there is a possibility that a Camp David-type U.S.-Jordanian-Israeli meeting will be held in Blair House in Washington. The aim of such a meeting will be to produce an agreement or for implementing the first Camp David documents regarding the framework for peace in the Middle East.

In its edition today, the magazine reports that this trilateral meeting might be held following the conclusion of the current Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty talks in Washington.

Citing what it describes as well-placed sources in Amman, the magazine says that King Husayn will meet with the heads of the Arab states contributing financially to Jordan to obtain their approval for the beginning of the Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli contacts aimed at translating the first Camp David document into practical steps that will take the form of a Jordanian-Israeli treaty.

AL-JUMHURIYAH ON EXPANSION OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

NC280746Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0714 GMT 28 Oct 78 NC

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Cairo, 28 October--AL-JUMHURIYAH today comments on the Israeli Government's decision to flesh out the settlements in the West Bank and Gaza sector. It says that this decision is an obstacle in the way of the efforts to achieve a comprehensive and durable peace in the Middle East.

The paper mentions that U.S. quarters describe the Israeli decision as very serious and that American Jews describe the timing of the decision as very bad.

AL-JUMHURIYAH then says that the decision by the Begin government came at a time when it has become obvious that there is a difference in the Washington negotiations regarding the question of linking the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty with the future of the West Bank and the Gaza sector.

The paper points out that the U.S. officials have emphasized, on more than one occasion, that the establishment of the Israeli settlements is an illegal action which runs counter to the provisions of international law.

In conclusion, the paper repeats that the U.S. quarters describe the recent decision by the government of Begin as a very serious matter.

Radio Comments on Decision

NC271435Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Oct 78 NC

[Fawzi Surur commentary]

[Excerpts] Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan returned to the United States yesterday to resume the peace negotiations with Egypt. It is natural for observers to expect the Israeli minister to return to Washington to resume his mission, carrying with him instructions from his prime minister, Menahem Begin, about the Israeli Government position on this issue in the next round, especially after the Tel Aviv government had held a series of meetings this week. Both Dayan and Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman attended these meetings.

What has caught the attention of observers in particular are the statements Dayan made at Andrews Air Force Base after his arrival in the United States. These statements dealt with Israeli settlements and the Israeli Government decision to flesh out these settlements in the West Bank.

The general impression of the decision to flesh out the existing Israeli settlements has caused much astonishment and denunication. It has also caused regret over the fate of the peace negotiations. This decision undoubtedly sets up real obstacles in the way of the continuation of these negotiations.

What drew attention in Dayan's statements is his claim that the Israeli decision to flesh out the Israeli settlements does not contradict anything in the two Camp David agreements with Egypt, and Dayan's assertion that the Israeli Government position is that these settlements will stay where they are forever and not just for a transitional period.

Dayan's claim that the Camp David agreements do not refer to Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank is a big issue which Dayan is raising at this particular time, knowing in advance that his statements and his claims in this respect will cause reaction.

Egypt, on the one hand, has announced from the beginning its clear position on the issue of the Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories. Egypt has announced that there is no alternative to removing these settlements; that it is impossible to imagine the establishment of genuine peace in the area while such settlements exist; and that the question of the establishment of just and lasting peace is incompatible with the continued existence of these settlements or with procrastination in the need for total Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories.

Meanwhile, the United States, which has assumed the role of the third positive partner in these negotiations, is aware of the true positions of the various participating sides and their inclinations not only on the issue of the removal of the Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, including the West Bank and other places, but also the other conditions contained in the Camp David agreements; the foremost of these conditions is the issue of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the issue of the rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is their basic right to self-determination over which there can be no bargaining.

From this angle it is not surprising that Dayan's statements in this respect have caused astonishment and denunciation among the political observers and have put big questions over the possibility of the continuation of the peace negotiations under the shadow of these brandished Israeli spears.

It is natural that Cairo should not stand idle in view of these grave developments, which can place major obstacles in the way of the desired peace. Therefore, it is now likely that the Egyptian political leadership will recall the head and senior members of the Egyptian delegation to Cairo for consultations in the light of the recent statements of the Israeli officials about the peace treaty and in order to get acquainted with the present status of the negotiations and to issue the necessary instructions to the Egyptian delegation in accordance with developments in these negotiations.

CAIRO TRIAL FOR COMMUNISTS PLOTTING OVERTHROW

LD301003Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 26 Oct 78 p 12 LD

[Excerpts] Mustafa at-Tarabishi writes: The Higher State Security Court in Cairo yesterday held a hearing on the remand in custody of 16 defendants arrested on 23 September who are members of the Egyptian 8 January Communist Organization. The prosecution revealed the secrets of this organization and its objective of overthrowing the regime and imposing communist rule by force. The prosecution also revealed the role of each of the organization's members and submitted evidence against them.

The court held its session under the chairmanship of Counsellor Muhammad Muhammad Kamil. Counsellors Muhammad Abu al-Fadl Yusuf and Muhammad Rif'at sat as members. The prosecution was represented by Ibrahim al-Hunaydi, first deputy prosecutor for state security. Ahmad Rihan was court secretary.

The defendants were brought in in two groups of eight. The prosecution representative summed up the role and activities of each in the organization, asking that they continue to be held in custody. The accused are:

Engineer Muhammad Raja' Muhammad Tantawi, alias "Shukri," is one of the founders of the organization, responsible for liaison, and a teacher at Al-Katib school. He instructed organization members on how to contact workers. He also distributed leaflets attacking the Camp David agreements.

'Abduh Tariq Yusuf 'Id, alias "Salim," is a full-time organization member and works for a monthly wage. He is a member of the Communist Party Central Committee and took part in several organizational meetings at which he discussed devoting particular attention to the public sector and to students. He also undertook teaching of members at Al-Katib school.

'Atif Sulayman Dawud, alias "Salah," managed the organization's cultural activities and instructed members on how to resist security men if apprehended. He assigned members to student unions and urged them to recruit new members into the organization. A new duplicating machine and hundreds of leaflets ready to be distributed were seized at his house. His wife, Amal 'Atiyyah, helped him in distributing the leaflets.

Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghaffar Mustafa, alias "Zaehran," is one of the organization's active elements in Cairo. Recordings were made of some of the meetings he attended, at which he urged members to step up their activities.

Majidah Fathi Rashwan, a Cairo University law student and a district-level member of the organization, specialized in propagating the objectives and principles of the organization inside universities at weekly meetings which she held.

Mahmud as-Sayyid an-Naghi, alias "Al-Baqari," a worker in the (Maggit) General Battery Company, exploited his position in the trade union leadership at the company to facilitate his activities among workers. He led workers' sit-ins at the company organized by his organization.

Muhammad 'Abd al-Mun'im Khalil, alias "Sa'id," is in charge of the committee for north Cairo and responsible for liaison and the distribution of leaflets among workers' communities in Hulwan, Cairo and Al-Jizah.

Ahmad Muwaffaq Jadallah, a lawyer from Alexandria, alias "Hazim," is in charge of liaison in Alexandria and paid 25 pounds monthly subscription to the organization. He concentrated his activities on mass meetings.

Khalid Hamzah Abu al-Yusr, an actor, recruited some members for the organization and distributed among them a leaflet written in his own hand urging them to recruit new elements into the party ranks. A leaflet addressed to writers and artists urging them to resist the regime were seized in his house.

Hawqi al-Kurdi Nasr Shahin, a doctor, is a member of one of the organization's committees and his activities were among students.

'Abd al-Hamid 'Abd as-Salam ash-Shaykh is a member of one of the organization's committees and distributed leaflets. He gave a leaflet to one of the security men.

Muhammad 'Abd al-Fattah 'Abd al-Hadi is a member of the Egyptian 8 January Communist Party, previously arrested in similar cases.

Mustafa 'Abd al-Ghaffar Mustafa, alias "'Urabi," admitted that the Central Committee had charged him with renting an apartment for the party and that he was in charge of collecting membership dues.

Mustafa Zaki Mahmud operates among students in the interest of the organization and attended organization meetings. He was previously arrested in similar communist cases.

Ahmad Jalal 'Abd as-Salam, a district committee member. A quantity of leaflets attacking the Camp David agreements was seized with him.

After the prosecution completed its summing up, the court chairman asked the defendants if they had anything to say. They replied in the negative.

The court postponed its decision regarding the question of imprisoning the defendants until today, Thursday.

MENA REPORTS ON AS-SADAT PRESS CONFERENCE

NC282235Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2135 GMT 28 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 October--In their telephone conversation, President as-Sadat and Menahem Begin exchanged congratulations on winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

During the conversation, President as-Sadat told Menahem Begin: I agree with you fully that the award dictates further commitments for both of us to achieve peace.

The president also said during the telephone conversation that the Egyptian delegation in Washington contacted Vice President Husni Mubarak today, and that the delegation will be ready to begin talks with the Israeli delegation.

President as-Sadat added: Thus we can achieve peace.

Concluding his conversation with Begin, As-Sadat said: Thank you very much and so long until we meet again.

After the telephone conversation between President as-Sadat and Menahem Begin, President as-Sadat began answering the questions of foreign correspondents.

Norwegian television correspondent: I wish to ask your excellency some questions. I believe that the news of your excellency's Nobel Prize award did not come as a surprise to you. Is this correct?

As-Sadat: Well, it actually was a surprise to me because I believe that a universally important prize as this one would be awarded after we conclude a peace agreement. However, I am extremely happy because we are on our way to peace. This is what we have just been discussing with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

Question: Did you not feel somewhat disappointed that the award is to be divided between you and Menahem Begin, since it was you who took the peace initiative?

Answer: Why feel disappointed? The most important thing for me is the achievement of peace and let the award be given to as many people as can achieve peace.

Question: The name of President Carter was mentioned prominently in the Nobel Peace prize statement. Does this surprise you?

Answer: No, absolutely not. You heard me now telling Prime Minister Begin, and I told my deputies in the parliamentary meeting we held here today, that the unknown soldier behind all this is President Carter. He really deserves the entire Nobel Prize.

Question: There is one question which I know our correspondent in Jerusalem is addressing tonight to Mr Begin. The question is: If the negotiations are not over by 19 November, is there any thought of signing the peace treaty in Oslo when you both receive the Nobel Prize?

Answer: Well, I welcome the idea. I definitely welcome it. I have not heard this idea before. I am hearing it from you for the first time, and I welcome it.

Question: Will your excellency be coming to Oslo to receive the prize?

Answer: I hope I will not have commitments here. I will do my best to go to Oslo. I am extremely grateful to the Norwegian Parliament. I am deeply grateful for this honor, but I consider it to be more an award to the Egyptian people than to myself. They supported me when I came back from Jerusalem and from Camp David and they are still supporting me wholeheartedly for the achievement of a comprehensive peace. Let me express my true gratitude for this honor and let us hope that we will be able to achieve peace in return for the commitment placed on our shoulders with this award.

Question: Mr President, are you surprised that this prize was awarded at the very time the talks appeared to be in difficulty?

Answer: Well, I said before that this is perfectly natural in any negotiations, but I definitely would have preferred it if these obstacles did not exist at the time we were awarded the prize, especially what has emerged from the Israeli side regarding the settlements and Jerusalem.

Question: How serious are these obstacles?

Answer: Well, they are considered very serious, but if we stick to the spirit of Camp David we can solve everything.

Question: Do you see any possibility of the talks being suspended at this stage?

Answer: Well, when Menahem Begin contacted me now, he asked that our two delegations meet. As you know I was planning to recall the ministers for consultations, but I certainly was not planning to sever the negotiations. I was indeed planning to recall them for consultations. As I have said, Prime Minister Begin asked that we give the Egyptian and Israeli delegations a chance to meet next week beginning tomorrow, so I agreed to his request.

Question: So, Mr President, you have decided not to recall any member of the Egyptian delegation for the time being, is this correct?

Answer: Yes, this was agreed upon by me, the vice president and the prime minister after the contact with Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali, head of the Egyptian delegation and defense minister. Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali contacted us at 1500 today and I asked him to inform President Carter that, for the time being, I agree to them resuming their talks instead of coming here for consultation.

Question: Mr President, the announcement of the Nobel Prize award yesterday was considered ill-timed by many people. The Nobel Prize committee could do nothing about the circumstances which developed at the Washington talks on the treaty. This morning I read the world press reaction to the Nobel Prize award being equally divided between your excellency and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin. I must say that there appeared to be a great deal of criticism of the fact that the prize was also awarded to Prime Minister Begin. I would like to know how you feel about it.

Answer: Well, you have heard me answer the same question, differently worded. I have said: Let the prize be given to any number of people. What is more important is peace. Let us achieve peace. No matter how many people get the award, it is acceptable to me.

Question: Could your excellency very briefly tell us what Prime Minister Begin said to you?

Answer: You have heard the conversation. He congratulated me and I congratulated him and I told him, as you heard, that this places on our shoulders a commitment to establish peace. He agreed with me and asked me to give our two delegations the opportunity to meet next week. Next week begins tomorrow, or rather the day after tomorrow. As I told you before, at 1500, that is 2 or 3 hours ago, I issued instructions to the Egyptian defense minister to inform President Carter--because it was President Carter who has contacted me and he was extremely concerned--I instructed the Egyptian defense minister to inform President Carter that they can continue there for the time being and let us hope that they can achieve peace. Let me tell you this: something similar happened on the Friday, 2 days before the end of the Camp David conference. So let us hope that this Saturday, today, will be like that Friday, and that in a few days we will hear that the two delegations have reached agreement. As I said before, it is not difficult if we adhere to the spirit and documents of Camp David.

Question: Would you say that the Nobel Peace Prize resulted in the new gesture of keeping the delegation there?

Answer: This has always been a possibility.

Question: As you know Mr President, on Friday President Carter was very much involved in the talks. Do you hope that he will do this again to help convince the Israelis?

Answer: Indeed (?we do) and this is why I agreed today not to recall the Egyptian defense minister for consultation.

(?He) is really extremely engaged in the talks. The man is really, as I have said, the unknown soldier behind all this.

Question: Did President Carter ask you perhaps in a message, not to recall the Egyptian delegation?

Answer: Yes, the message arrived yesterday.

Question: A final question Mr President. President Carter said during his election campaign--which he has just started--that he now hopes that a peace treaty may be signed by Christmas. This is 2 or 3 weeks later than the date we were talking about last month. How do you feel about the final dates?

Answer: As far as I am concerned I am ready tomorrow or the day after, or next week. I am ready, but it is up to the other side, not me. We are ready, but as I said to you it is up to the other side to decide.

Correspondents: Mr President, we thank and congratulate you.

NDP PARLIAMENTARY BODY MEETS, PRIME MINISTER SPEAKS

NC2818000Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Oct 78 NC

[Text] The National Democratic Party parliamentary body resumed its meetings under President Anwar as-Sadat in Al-Qanatir al-Khayriyah at noon today. At the outset of the meeting, the president spoke about the Nobel Peace Prize. He pointed out that the credit for this honor goes to the Egyptian people, thanks to their struggle and persistence. Therefore, he added, the prize should go to the people and I have decided to present it to Mit Abu al-Kawm.

His excellency then referred to the role of U.S. President Carter in achieving peace. He also pointed out that for the honor bestowed upon him, he thanks the peoples of the world who supported peace and who are still sending him thousands of messages daily supporting the move toward peace.

Vice President Husni Mubarak spoke about his recent tour of eight states. He explained that he had met with the heads of these states who had several questions to ask about the Camp David agreements. He said that these questions arose from their eagerness to see the peace movement succeed and to see the aims of this movement achieved in the area. He said that he had explained to the heads of these states the dimensions of the Camp David agreement and the close link between the two agreements in that the document on the framework for peace between Egypt and Israel is only a first step in implementation of the document on the comprehensive framework.

The vice president explained that all the heads of the states he had met with were interested in and supported President Anwar as-Sadat's steps to achieve peace and security in the area.

Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil then spoke. He said that President as-Sadat's winning of the Nobel Peace Prize means all the states of the world recognize the president's efforts to give momentum to the peace process and his courage in making fateful decisions in the interest of Egypt and the Arab nation.

The prime minister pointed out that the president has been defining the basis of the democratic structure in Egypt since 15 May [1971] and that the president's engagement in political party work is a guarantee for the continuation of the democratic system.

The prime minister also pointed out that, according to the president's instructions, mistakes might be permissible but deviation is not. He said that everybody is answerable and is subject to the supremacy of the law.

The prime minister then referred to the subject of former Deputy Prime Minister Engineer Ahmad Sultan. He said that he has asked the U.S. ambassador to take all the necessary measures to enable Egypt to obtain all the evidence and to send an Egyptian investigator to the United States to study the evidence, because the eagerness to safeguard the integrity and reputation of the government in Egypt is equal to the eagerness for the charges to be fully backed up by evidence.

Regarding the government's relationship with the press, the prime minister said that the press is the fourth estate. He said this fact means that we should take into consideration what is published in the newspapers and magazines and that every minister should consider ways to implement the ideas for the achievement of prosperity. The prime minister said that the question of bureaucracy will be remedied by transferring all the central powers to the localities. This means the ministers' powers will be transferred to the governors and down further to the village and quarter levels.

Regarding the abolition of the Information Ministry, the prime minister explained that this abolition is based on a basic principle, namely, that President as-Sadat wants to put an end to state control over information. With regard to radio and television, the prime minister said that these two departments will not be under a minister, although a minister will serve as liaison between these two departments and the People's Assembly with regard to constitutional matters without personally controlling these departments. He said that a council of trustees will be set up to draw up the policy for radio and television. The council will have three or four delegated members to implement this policy.

The prime minister pointed out that the Culture Ministry has not been abolished but that its functions have been taken over by the Ministry of Education because the president wants to liberate culture and seek the assistance of the learned and intellectual people in drawing up a culture policy, particularly in the student sector, which consists of about 7 million citizens. The prime minister said measures will be taken to promote culture among the workers and the peasants.

Regarding education and scientific research, the prime minister explained that the principle is to give full authority to the boards of the universities and colleges. As for education before the university stage, this will be the responsibility of the localities. The prime minister pointed out that with regard to economic cooperation and planning, the present plan will be recongisered. He said that important changes will be made in the new phase, particularly by the exploitation of the Sinai. He also discussed the solution of the problems of food security, clothing and population. With regard to economic liberalization, this will be based on the efforts of the public and private sectors through public or joint projects. He said that the state must participate in the studies on the subject.

As for prices, the prime minister said that the government can draw up a stable price policy. The wage policy will be linked with this policy. All the policies will be submitted to party committees and the members of the parliamentary body to express their opinion on them and debate them before sanctioning them.

The prime minister said the government plans to expand social insurance and to pay more attention to the women and youth sectors.

The prime minister concluded his statement by pointing out that there are two basic problems which must be tackled seriously. They are the problems of the eradication of illiteracy and the problem of family planning.

At the end of the meeting, the party's official spokesman, Mansur Hasan, said that the parliamentary body will continue its meetings under President as-Sadat to start the debate among the members on the prime minister's statement to agree on the nominations for the post of the People's Assembly speaker and his two deputy speakers and study the permanent committees.

AS-SADAT CHAIRS 29 OCT MEETING OF NDP PARLIAMENTARY BODY

NC291645Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Oct 78 NC

[Text] The parliamentary body of the National Democratic Party [NDP] met today under the chairmanship of President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat. The meeting was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil, Deputy Prime Minister for People's Assembly Affairs and NDP Secretary General Fikri Makram 'Ubayd, and the ministers.

After the meeting, which lasted over 3 hours, party official spokesman Mansur Hasan said that the members discussed problems related to the masses in the sectors of housing, communications, agriculture, economy, drinking water in the rural areas and cooperative marketing. President as-Sadat directed in this connection that these problems will receive great attention from the officials concerned and the prime minister.

President Anwar as-Sadat then spoke about the democratic system in Egypt. He said that although the NCP enjoys a vast majority inside and outside the assembly, there must be a strong opposition party so that we will be able to have a true democratic system. Such an opposition party must be consolidated. The president referred in this respect to the party system in the United States and the fact that the Democratic and Republican parties operate within the framework of free opinion. The difference between the two parties lies only in their method of work, he said.

The president added that as far as Egypt is concerned there should be two parties operating within the context of socialist democracy and seeking to promote prosperity for the people. These two parties must compete in the service of Egypt, he said, and the members of the majority party and the opposition party must work on an equal footing, all in the interest of Egypt.

The president then spoke about the governors' movement and said it will be delayed for a few days. The members of the parliamentary body agreed to nominate a governor for every governorate from the members of the governorate itself. This will give a boost to democracy.

On the laws slated for amendment and, in particular, the amendment of an article in the constitution to make the press a fourth estate, the president said that such amendment would mean an upgrading of the press.

Referring to the socialist prosecutor law, he said the law covers political aspects, not criminal aspects, and this is to insure good conduct by everyone working in the public service. The socialist prosecutor, he said, will only investigate the political issues and it will report to the Ethics Committee of the People's Assembly.

As far as the positions that have become vacant in the People's Assembly, the parliamentary body members agreed to nominate Dr Sufi Abu Talib as speaker of the assembly, and As-Sayyid 'Ali as-Sayyid and Muhammad 'Abd al-Hamid Ramadan as his two deputies.

On the fair distribution of supplies, the president directed that the ration card system be studied. He also pointed out that neither in the NDP family nor in all Egypt is there a place for anyone of those who have participated in the corruption of political life before or after the revolution, nor for those who advocate subversive principles which are against values and religion.

On foreign policy President as-Sadat said that Egypt's policy is based on nonalinement and the establishment of peace.

DEFENSE MINISTER INTERVIEWED BY ROSE AL-YUSUF

NC2909422 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 29 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 October--Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the minister of defense and leader of the Egyptian delegation to the Washington discussions, has stressed that the Israeli forces withdrawal from the Egyptian territories and the establishment of peace between the two countries are linked with the Camp David framework for a comprehensive solution. He added that the aim of President as-Sadat and the United States is to achieve a comprehensive solution which would consolidate the foundations of peace in the entire area and enable the Palestinians to determine their fate.

In an exclusive interview with ROSE AL-YUSUF magazine, 'Ali said that in addition to the preamble, the peace treaty, whose drafting has entered the final stages, includes nine articles and two appendixes. The first appendix deals with military affairs and defines the withdrawal stages, the areas where the forces of both sides and the UN forces will be stationed, and the demilitarized zone. The second appendix deals with the details of normalizing relations between Egypt and Israel.

The defense minister said: The normalization of relations is a building process which will be implemented gradually. In other words, there must be a beginning which will be followed by gradual steps in the various fields. He added that the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel lays the basis only and that committees will be formed later and secondary agreements will be concluded to realize this aim.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali emphasized that all this would not make Israel a state enjoying preferential treatment status. He said: The treatment of Israel will fall within the framework of our international agreements and the framework of dealing with other states.

Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the details which are being discussed now are connected with the gist of the agreement. He expressed his hope that these discussions will end before 1 November to enable the initialing of the treaty around this date.

Regarding the U.S. role and President Carter's following the details of the discussions, the defense minister said: President Carter intervenes when important issues, such as the question of linking the Sinai agreement with the question of the West Bank and Gaza sector, are involved. The United States seeks to push the discussions in the direction of a comprehensive solution and in the direction of involving the other Arab sides in negotiations backed by the guarantee of the United States.

Regarding the U.S. answers to the Jordanian questions on the two Camp David agreements, 'Ali said: King Husayn and the Palestinians will find out that many of the U.S. answers are convincing. The answers to some matters are left for negotiation with the Israeli side through U.S. intervention.

The defense minister asserted that he does not yet know if there have been Jordanian answers to the U.S. answers which reached Amman recently.

AL-AKHBAR COMMENTS ON BAGHDAD SUMMIT

NC300820Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 Oct 78 NC

[From the Press Review]

[Excerpt] AL-AKHBAR comments on the summit conference to be held in Baghdad and the reports by news agencies about intentions to isolate Egypt from the Arab nation. The paper says: The call for holding the summit conference in Baghdad has been coupled with news agency reports about intentions to isolate Egypt from the Arab nation. The agency reports say that Al-Asad and Al-Bakr have agreed to raise the question of isolating Egypt at the Baghdad summit. Whether these reports are true or not, they do not deserve any attention. We would have refrained from commenting on these reports were it not for the fact that Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has dealt with them in an objective and very useful manner.

Asked whether it is one of the goals of the Baghdad conference to isolate Egypt, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said: Egypt is an indivisible part of the Arab nation. The nobility and continued affiliation of the Egyptian people to Arabism cannot be encroached upon. It is impossible to imagine the isolation of Egypt and the Egyptian people from the Arab nation. This is matter which would harm, not benefit, the Arab cause.

The paper says that by his conscientious and mature statement, Prince al-Faysal is stating a historic fact that cannot be refuted by the Baghdad or any other conference. This fact cannot be shaken by plots or adventures by Al-Asad and Al-Bakr.

AL-AKHBAR points out that the desire to isolate Egypt from the Arab nation is not new. The first to seek this isolation was imperialism when it brought its successive legions to establish the crusader state in the heart of the Arab nation. After more than 200 years of wars, imperialism failed to achieve any of its objectives. One of the representatives of imperialism then said: We have failed in the crusades because we failed to isolate Egypt from the Arab world. Egypt extended strength to the Arabs and triumphed over the crusaders.

The paper stresses that Egypt continues to be the center of the Arab world and its motivating power. It says that anyone who contemplates isolating Egypt is undoubtedly mad and sees things upside down.

SALIM TO ACCEPT AWARD FOR AS-SADAT IN NEW YORK

NC300639Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 30 Oct 78 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat has deputized Presidential Assistant Mamduh Salim to attend the meeting of the Society of the Family of Man in New York which will be held on Thursday. At this meeting, the society will award its gold medal for 1978 to President Anwar as-Sadat for his accomplishments in the service of the cause of world peace. The meeting will be attended by a large number of world and American leaders and figures. Mamduh Salim will deliver a speech on behalf of President Anwar as-Sadat.

Mamduh Salim is scheduled to leave Cairo for New York tomorrow morning.

Among those who have been awarded the society's gold medal are President Jimmy Carter and President John Kennedy.

ARABS CALLED TO RAISE QUESTION OF ISRAEL'S ATOMIC BOMB

NC291052Y Cairo MENA in English 1015 GMT 29 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, Oct. 29 (MENA)--Egyptian writer and political commentator Ahmad Baha' ad-Din called today on the Arab countries and the Arab League to raise the issue of Israel's ownership of the atomic bomb in all international conventions and to ask for pressure on the Israeli Government to issue clear-cut unambiguous statements on this issue.

In case the Arab countries could not get an official acknowledgement from Israel or from the other countries, they should inhibit this fact in the international mind to believe Israel's pretexts that she is a small country beset by dangers and needs secure borders.

The well-known journalist went on to say in his weekly article that the Arab countries, using their publicity as well as legal and international weapons if they manage to prove Israel as an atomic state, they will pull down Israel's security claims. No peoples or governments will then ever believe that a state which alone owns atomic weapons in the area, actually requires the Arab square kilometres it is claiming on security grounds.

The writer recalls that he was often surprised by the Arab states' silence over that question. By "silence" he does not mean failure to take similar action in producing the atomic bomb, but rather political and international silence over the fact that Israel already owns the atomic weapon.

The reason for such silence, the writer surmises, might have been the Arab states' reluctance to face that and the recording of the fact would entail their responsibility before their peoples to own the same weapon.

The writer says he would prefer enlightening rather than stirring the public opinion, thus educating the people and not keeping it in the dark. "It is our duty, therefore, to declare Israel an atomic state and to convince the public opinion in our countries that owning a similar weapon would not serve Arab interests in the current circumstances. This necessity is now vital for all the Arab, the rejectionists, the negotiators, and those in between, on the following grounds:

A) Israel's ownership of the atomic bomb is now a fact,

B) The declaration of that fact will foil Israel's security claims for good, and

C) Will embarrass the big powers and the world community which--we quite agree--do not fully sponsor nor wish to sponsor the Arab right.

DELEGATION TO BAGHDAD CONFERENCE DEPARTS

JN291237Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Oct 78 JN

[Text] The Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the Arab foreign ministers left Amman today for Baghdad. The conferees will prepare for the Arab summit conference which will open in Baghdad on 2 November.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim, who leads the delegation, said that Jordan will take part in the Arab foreign ministers meetings and the Arab summit conference out of a positive feeling and belief in Arab solidarity and joint united work. He addded that Jordan supports Iraq's call for holding the Arab summit, based on the call of His Majesty King Husayn for holding an Arab summit to draw up a comprehensive Arab plan to rebuild the intrinsic Arab power and a long-term strategy for joint Arab work.

The state minister further added that Jordan will do its utmost to acertain the success of the conference. Moreover, Jordan will submit a working plan, which was previously prepared, to be added to the conference agenda. He explained that this working plan calls for providing a framework for Arab moves in the coming phase in the various political, economic, military and information fields.

The Jordanian delegation was seen off by the Foreign Ministry secretary general, the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Amman and a number of officials.

AR-RA'Y: ARAB SUMMIT TO DISCUSS REVIVAL OF EASTERN FRONT

JN300641Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 30 Oct 78 p 1 JN

[Text] AR-RA'Y correspondent's dispatch from Baghdad--Informed diplomatic sources here have stated that the Arab summit conference to be held on 2 November will discuss the revival of the eastern front and strengthening Jordan's military capabilities.

The sources added that Iraqi-Syrian contacts have been held and agreement reached that Syria will carry out consultations with Jordan before the convening of the Baghdad summit to coordinate positions on this subject.

Diplomatic sources in Baghdad pin high hopes on the implementation of this proposal, particularly after Jordan has welcomed the Syrian-Iraqi meeting.

STATEMENT ON VISIT OF SYRIAN ASSEMBLY DELEGATION TO AMMAN

JN271930Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Oct 78 JN

[Text of Jordanian-Syrian joint statement issued today at the end of the official visit by a Syrian People's Assembly delegation, under Assembly Speaker Mahmud Hadid, to Jordan, read by announcer]

[Text] Stemming from the ties of brotherhood binding the two fraternal countries, Jordan and Syria; in continuation of the existing coordination between the Syrian People's Assembly and the Jordanian Parliament; in response to the invitation extended by Speaker of the Senate Bahjat at-Talhuni, Speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly Mahmud Hadid, leading a delegation from the Syrian People's Assembly, paid an official visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan 25-27 October, 1978.

His Majesty King Husayn received Mahmud Hadid, the speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, his majesty explained the Jordanian position in particular and the Arab position in general on the Camp David conference and its results, and the hopes his majesty places on the convening of the forthcoming Baghdad summit meeting and his majesty's expectations that the conference will adopt resolutions confirming the Arab nation's fateful stand. The head of the delegation thanked his majesty for the explanation he gave.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan also received the distinguished delegation. He welcomed the delegation members, briefed them on Jordan's political aspirations; the coordination and cooperation that should exist among brother Arab countries, particularly in these difficult circumstances; and the necessity for solidarity and unity of their political positions on the Middle East crisis, especially the Palestinian cause and the occupied Arab territories. His highness also explained to the visiting delegation Jordan's progress in the economic, developmental and cultural spheres.

The delegation then visited Prime Minister Mudar Badran, head of the Jordanian side to the Jordanian-Syrian Higher Ministerial Committee. They discussed matters related to the two fraternal countries and to the cooperation and coordination between them. The discussion also dealt with the current political situation and the Jordanian Government's position on this situation, as expressed in the settlements on this subject issued by the government.

The speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly and the delegation accompanying him paid a visit to Bahjat at-Talhuni, speaker of the Senate, in his office at the Parliament Building. The distinguished delegation met with a number of Senate members in the presence of Bahjat at-Talhuni. Discussions took place on parliamentary affairs and political issues preoccupying the Arab citizen. The two speakers exchanged speeches in which they expressed the two fraternal countries' positions on what is currently taking place in the Arab arena.

The Jordanian side believes that Jordan and Syria should proceed side by side on the path of pan-Arabism and the service of the Arab cause. Jordan bases its political position on declared fundamental principles, namely total Israeli withdrawal from Arab occupied territories, with Jerusalem in the forefront, and the regaining of the Palestinian people's national rights, including their right to self-determination. It stresses that this should be done in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Jordan also believes that the signing of the Camp David agreements has led to the creation of a new situation whose dangerous results and consequences Jordan is facing.

The Syrian side considers that its visit to Amman and meetings with Jordanian officials reflects responsibility and is in keeping with the consultations whose foundations were laid down by His Majesty King Husayn and President Hafiz al-Asad. The Syrian side notes that the current stage through which the Arab nation is passing is a difficult and dangerous one, and that this situation requires unity of potentials and capabilities to serve the basic objectives of the Arab nation, foremost of which is liberation [of the occupied territories]. The two sides also realize that the tasks have become larger for the two fraternal countries, Jordan and Syria, as they are in the forefrort of the confrontation.

The Syrian side believes that our battle with the Zionist enemy is continuous and will last until the total withdrawal of the Zionist enemy from the occupied Arab territories, foremost of which is Arab Jerusalem, is achieved and they are liberated.

Therefore, the Syrian side believes that the two countries have to seek continuous coordination and strong solidarity to confront the imperialist-Zionist onslaught and the serious results of the Camp David accords.

The Syrian side has expressed the desire for the continuation of meetings, cooperation and consultation with Jordan as well as the coordination of parliamentary stands on the Arab and international levels.

In light of what has happened, the two sides have agreed that the developments taking place in the Arab region represent a serious turning point in the Arab-Zionist struggle. The Jordanian and Syrian sides are acquainted with all new developments in the Arab region, as a result of the guidance of His Majesty King Husayn and his brother President Hafiz al-Asad. The participation in events by the parliamentarians in the two fraternal countries in particular--and the Arab parliamentarians in general--is important as they represent the true feelings and demands of the Arab people.

The two sides affirm that the solution of the Middle East issue must be just and comprehensive in accordance with the UN resolutions which stipulate total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and restoration of the national and legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Therefore, the two sides see the need to continue coordination, consultations and meetings between the two fraternal countries in a manner that serves the aims of the march toward integration and coordination on all levels, especially since the current circumstances are difficult and complicated. The two countries must work in all fields to confront the colonialist and Zionist schemes and solve the main pan-Arab cause.

The two sides also believe in the need to back and support any Arab meetings aimed at uniting Arab efforts so as to serve the basic Arab objectives of liberation. The two sides also stress their sincere desire for the Arab leaders in their forthcoming conference in Baghdad to adopt the decisions which will insure for the Arab nation the right course to continue the struggle for the liberation of its occupied territories and the restoration of its usurped rights.

The two sides call on the Arabs to take a serious and firm stand toward the fateful Arab cause, in which the Jordanian and Syrian countries represent an important pillar for confrontation with the enemy. The two sides also call for work to consolidate the Arab parliamentary federation so that it will play its requisite national role on the Arab and international levels.

The two sides hail the brave stand of our Palestinian Arab people inside the occupied Arab territories as well as their steadfastness in the face of the Zionist terrorist settlement practices aimed against their presence and territories. The two sides also affirm their absolute support for the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people for the liberation of their territories and restoration of their usurped rights.

The two fraternal sides also expressed their belief in the right of peoples to independence, self-determination and the need to eradicate all forms of oppression and racial discrimination in the world.

The Syrian delegation has expressed its sincere thanks and appreciation for the welcome and hospitality accorded it during its stay among kinsmen and brothers in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Mahmud Hadid, speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly, has extended an invitation to Bahjat at-Talhuni to visit Syria at the head of a delegation from the senate. This invitation has been accepted with thanks and its date will be fixed later.

Issued in Amman on 27 October 1978.

PRESS COMMENTS ON SYRIAN-IRAQI CHARTER

JN270932Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Oct 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Jordanian papers published this morning discuss in their editorials the signing of the Syrian-Iraqi charter.

The newspaper AL-AKHBAR says: The Baghdad two-state summit conference concluded with the signing of a joint action charter between Syria and Iraq embracing various economic, cultural and military aspects. A unified political command was formed by the two countries. Joint committees were also formed to undertake coordination of steps for cooperation and integration. These results of the Baghdad summit are part of the serious reply to the fateful challenges facing the Arab homeland that have deepened since the Camp David summit. The results are part of a responsible reply to the Camp David summit and its goals. We say these results are such because we want this reply to embrace the entire Arab homeland in a manner that pools all Arab resources in an effort to contain the danger and repulse the aggression. The danger does not threaten Syria and Iraq alone but the entire Arab future. Perhaps it is useful to recall that Israel, while it has announced its preliminary approval of the draft of the separate peace treaty with Egypt, announced that it intends to transfer the headquarters of the prime minister's office and the Foreign Ministry to east Jerusalem and that it intends to make further construction in all the settlements it has established in the occupied West Bank. While Israel pretends to be eager for peace, it is declaring its insistence on consolidating its occupation of Arab Jerusalem and the West Bank. Israel is affirming that what it called concessions in Sinai were intended to cover up its aggressive intentions to consolidate its footholds in Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights.

Speaking about the same subject, the newspaper AR-RA'Y says: The Syrian and Iraqi presidents have signed a charter for joint action at a time when the states of our nation are in dire need of a unified will, stand, effort and goal because of negative aspects affecting the Arab-Israeli dispute in the absence of joint Arab action. With the increasing darkness that is engulfing our homeland from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf, the Iraqi-Syrian charter is a step toward easing Arab despair. We hope that more comprehensive steps will follow very soon through the agreement of the Arab leaders, during their forthcoming summit, on a joint Arab action charter to contain the dangers threatening the future of the Arab nation and its dignity, sovereignty and future. Although the joint action charter between Damascus and Baghdad is a natural reaction to the basic changes affecting all aspects of the Arab cause, this reaction remains limited unless it finds strong and actual support and aid from all the Arab states that will participate in the forthcoming Arab summit conference. Therefore, we view the Syrian-Iraqi action charter as a harbinger of good news, because it takes the Arab citizen one step beyond the circle of despair and capitulation to the will of the enemy by bringing hope that the resolutions of the forthcoming Arab summit conference in Baghdad will succeed in taking the entire Arab nation out the the sphere of despair, weakness and capitulation and into the sphere of ability to formulate the Arab future through Arab will.

Speaking about the Syrian-Iraqi action charter, the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: The Iraqi-Syrian charter signed in Baghdad by Presidents al-Bakr and al-Asad is an important step in changing the strategic Arab balance vis-a-vis Israel.

The Iraqi-Syrian charter, from this standpoint, is tantamount to support of the Arab ranks and will consolidate Arab strength on the political, economic and military levels. If we take into consideration the unionist goal between the two fraternal countries, which is the goal of the charter, then the logical translation of this means that the Al-Bakr-Al-Asad meeting has achieved something more than elimination of the differences between the two countries and the establishment of solidarity between them.

Concluding its commentary, AD-DUSTUR says: Thus, the Iraqi-Syrian charter represents the hope that the Arabs will be able to rise to the level of the fateful challenges in this serious phase--challenges that are deepening and proceeding swiftly in an unprecedented manner. These challenges more than ever before are represented in the enemy's insistence on totally devouring Arab Jerusalem and forever eliminating the Arab features of the West Bank through increasing settlements and transforming the Arab majority there into a minority. Undoubtedly, the charter is proof that the Arabs can do a lot and is also evidence that the Camp David agreements do not at all represent the end of the road for the Arab struggle for the future of the Arab nation.

AD-DUSTUR VIEWS LINKAGE, ISRAELI MOVES ON WEST BANK

JN281047Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Oct 78 pp 1, 17 JN

[Editorial "by an Arab politician": "The Jordanian Questions Yield Fruit"]

[Text] The precise Jordanian questions which Amman addressed to Washington and the U.S. answers to these questions have begun to give the results that Jordan expected. The first result is exposing the reality of the Israeli intentions toward the Camp David agreement related to the occupied territory of the eastern front. Thus, Washington has been forced to enter into a confrontation with Israel over the "interpretation" of this agreement. Second, this should convince President as-Sadat that when he signs the agreement on restoration of Sinai, he in fact at the same time sells out Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Golan to Israel.

In the past 2 days, Israel has proved beyond doubt the soundness of Jordanian logic that accused the Camp David agreements of vagueness and of lacking a binding link between the Sinai agreement and the agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Israel has also proven beyond doubt the soundness of the Palestinians' fears that the "self-rule" plan is merely a legal coverup for Israeli occupation and expansion by establishing settlements and keeping Arab Jerusalem.

Thus, any U.S. or Egyptian claim that an element of linkage exists between the two agreements has fallen through in the face of Israel's insistence on expanding its settlements in the West Bank and moving the headquarters of the Prime Ministry and Foreign Ministry to Arab Jerusalem. All of this is taking place "before" the signing of the separate peace between Egypt and Israel. What will be the case "after" the signing?

By its attempt to defy the statements of Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Saunders during his latest visit to the area, Israel has--whether deliberately or not--acted to remove the last fig leaf behind which the Egyptian negotiator was hiding in Washington. For how can the Egyptian negotiator now claim that the peace treaty with Israel is "a step on the road to a comprehensive solution" while Israel is blocking the way of the remaining steps by its latest measures?

How can this negotiator convince the Arabs of the existence of a link between the two agreements while Israel is now behaving in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as if it is not bound by this imaginary link?

Optimists say that President as-Sadat now has a golden chance to reconsider his stand, return to the Arab fold and hold Israel responsible for the collapse of the negotiations in Washington. As-Sadat can withdraw his negotiators and declare that he will not continue with the negotiations unless Israel pledges to abolish its latest measures. The pessimists, however, maintain that the distance Egypt has covered in the negotiations for a reconciliation [sulh] with Israel is so long that it can only go all the way.

In any case, the "interactions" that have been created by the Jordanian questions have achieved most important results by exposing Israel, which was hiding behind the vagueness of Camp David, and consequently snatched from Egyptis' hand the claim that its peace with Israel is not at the expense of the Arabs. Thus, Egypt must realize that if it signs a reconciliation with Israel without the latter pledging "among other things" to stop its settlements and respect the Arab right in Jerusalem, this will mean a recognition of Israel's right to establish settlements in the West Bank and of its alleged right in Jerusalem.

The Jordanian questions and the Israeli reaction to the U.S. answers to them has placed the United States in an embarrassing situation. The questions and answers have proven that there is a clear difference between the understanding by the Americans and the Israelis of the Camp David agreement and of the self-rule plan, until Washington and Tel Aviv agree on one interpretation that can be submitted to the Arab side, Jordan and the Palestinians have the right to refuse to enter as parties to a dialog in which Israel and the United States are still talking in two different languages.

If what is said is true, that Begin was forced to agree on establishing settlements in the West Bank in order to obtain agreement of his ministers to the Egyptian-Israeli treaty plan--most of its provisions were actually agreed on in Washington--what will be the "bribes" Begin will be forced to grant to his ministers to buy their approval of an agreement that will definitely be more complicated in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?

Once again events prove that the road to peace is still long and full of mines continuously planted by Israeli baseness. Once again events prove that dependence on U.S. "firmness" has grave risks because this dependence is like leaning on a wall of mercury which moves in all directions. Once again events have proven that "Arab peace" will only be achieved by armed Arab will and genuine determination to impose it. This, in specific, is the historic responsibility of the Baghdad conference.

SARKIS, AL-HUSS, ASSEMBLY SPEAKER DISCUSS DEFENSE LAW

NC281415Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Oct 78 NC

[Text] At 1115 today, President Ilyas Sarkis held a working meeting attended by Speaker Kamil al-As'ad and Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. The meeting lasted until 1315.

After the meeting Speaker al-As'ad made the following statement: We still hope that the government will have a unified stand on the draft defense law. Our discussions were useful and will help in achieving our goal.

Asked whether there will be another meeting on the subject, Al-As'ad said: We shall see what the position of the parliamentary committees will be because the cabinet put forward a request which we must take into consideration so as to expedite the completion of the draft. We hope, God willing, that the views of the government and parliament will be identical.

Al-As'ad added: I handed Prime Minister al-Huss the memorandum drawn up by the independent parliamentary bloc in the form of a recommendation to put the question of the south, resettlement and the abnormal situation on the southern borders on the agenda of the Baghdad conference.

Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said: Discussions at the meeting have centered on the draft defense law. The discussion was useful because it helped to clarify a number of points. However, a final result was not reached becaused of the complicated nature of the subject which requires further study. Consequently, there will be more discussions with President Sarkis, Speaker al-As'ad and members of the national defense and administration and justice committees.

PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER MEET U.S. CONGRESSMAN

NC271755Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Oct 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis today met with Staff Brig Gen Munir Turbay, chief of staff of the army, and then with Dr Charles Rizq, chairman of the board of directors of the Lebanese television company. He then received Congressman Stephen Solarz, Democratic representative from New York State, who was accompanied by U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon John Dean.

After the meeting, the U.S. congressman was asked about the matters discussed during his meeting with President Sarkis. He replied: We discussed problems of the area and exchanged views on what must be done to resolve current problems in Lebanon.

Asked his opinion about the situation in Lebanon, Solarz said: I just got here and I am trying to form an idea about the situation. I believe it is premature to express an opinion before I have the chance to meet with those I am supported to meet in the next few days. He added: In fact, I came here to inquire about the problems and get the views of the Lebanese on how to solve their problems. Asked if he had given President Sarkis a message from President Carter, Solarz said: Basically, I came to learn President Sarkis' views on the situation in Lebanon and what must be done to resolve the current problems here.

This afternoon, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met with U.S. Congressman Stephen Solarz, accompanied by U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon John Dean. After the meeting the U.S. ambassador [as heard] described his meeting with Prime Minister al-Huss as an exploratory session regarding the situation in Lebanon.

ADF COMMANDER SEES PRESIDENT, ANSWERS QUESTIONS

NC281033Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Oct 78 NC

[Text] At 0015 today President Ilyas Sarkis held a meeting with Arab Deterrent Forces commander Col Sami al-Khatib. Following the meeting, which ended at 1030, Colonel al-Khatib answered questions by newsmen.

Asked whether he could say that some measures have begun to be implemented in accordance with the executive program drawn up by the cabinet, Colonel al-Khatib said: The first stage, which calls for the elimination of armed manifestations, has begun and has so far been successful to a certain extent. As for the second stage--the stage of drawing up plans as we were asked to do in accordance with the cabinet decision--it will begin today.

Asked about the date of the withdrawal of the regular Palestinian units which entered Lebanon recently, Colonel al-Khatib said: I cannot give the date when these units will withdraw, but the withdrawal will be carried out.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met with Deputy Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil at the Presidential Palace at 1000 today. The two reviewed the general situation and the favorable response of all parties to the state's plan to carry out the executive program drawn up for implementing the Bayt ad-Din resolutions.

Also today, Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman arrived in Zgharta and met with former President Sulayman Franjiyah. Dr Salman will later meet with former Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

VOL: SYRIA'S KHADDAM ASKS CLOSING OF PRIVATE RADIOS

NC281352Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 28 Oct 78 NC

[Text] It has been reported that all Lebanese newspapers published in the western area of Beirut continue to be confiscated in the Syrian capital. Distribution of foreign newspapers is also banned.

An information source today disclosed that Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam asked Prime Minister Salim al-Huss at the Bayt ad-Din conference to stop private radios from broadcasting because they are clearly heard in Syria and because they have led to the creation of problems in Aleppo, Hamah and Latakia. The source added that the Lebanese prime minister promised to respond to Khaddam's request without consulting with the president and the ministers. This (?angered) Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus who refused to join the ministerial committee or assume any responsibility.

Sources close to the Lebanese foreign minister said that he fears actions similar to those of former Prime Minister Rashid Karami in the era of former President Sulayman Franjiyah. Those actions led to more division and to the consolidation of rule at the top which has often harmed Lebanon.

CHAMBER SPEAKER MAKES STATEMENT AFTER BLOC MEETING

NC271848Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Oct 78 NC

[Excerpts] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-Asa'ad today chaired a meeting independent parliamentary bloc, during which the Bayt ad-Din conference resolutions executive program approved by the cabinet was discussed. The bloc also touched on the Arab summit conference to be held in Baghdad.

After the meeting, Chamber Speaker al-As'ad said: The independent bloc discussed two subjects; the executive program approved by the cabinet, the Lebanese delegation to the Baghdad conference and the need to put the question of southern Lebanon before the conference.

Speaker al-As'ad said: Regarding the first subject, the independent bloc's delegation reviewed the atmosphere which prevailed at the delegations' meetings with President Ilyas Sarkis and Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss before the cabinet issued its resolutions. We then reviewed the resolutions. As a result of the discussions, the bloc announces its support for the plan as a whole but it wishes to make two observations in this connection.

1. Before weapons are collected, the use of weapons should be banned in order to put a decisive end to any violation of security during the present period and to consolidate security. Clear and frank orders must be given to the departments concerned to consolidate security in all parts of the capital and the various areas. That has not been done so far.

2. Regarding the bloc's position on the plan, the bloc will wait until the plan is drawn up in 2 weeks by the security departments concerned--the deterrent forces, the army and the Internal Security Forces departments.

The chamber speaker added that the bloc decided to draw up a recommendation calling on the government to put the question of the south before the summit conference in Baghdad.

INTERIOR MINISTER MEETS WITH FRANJIYAH, KARAMI

NC281945Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Oct 78 NC

[Excerpts] Within the framework of current consultations to facilitate implementation of the executive program of the Bayt ad-Din resolutions, Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman today called on former President Franjiyah in Zgharta. They discussed the measures adopted by the state to implement the program. The interior minister then called on former Prime Minister Karami in Tripoli and discussed with him the general situation in the country.

Before leaving Zgharta, Minister Salman made the following statement:

It was natural, or to be more accurate, it was necessary to visit former President Sulayman Franjiyah to brief him on the Bayt ad-Din conference resolutions, the cabinet's approval of the resolutions and its subsequent approval of the executive program of the resolutions. I reviewed the program for Franjiyah and explained to him the method we are following to implement the resolutions. As I expected, I found Franjiyah completely ready to respond to the government to facilitate its task and to enable us to implement what we decided upon.

Moreover, we took the opportunity to discuss conditions in the north, particularly the security situation. We hope security will prevail throughout Lebanon in the future. Asked when the security plan will be implemented in the eastern area now that its implementation had begun in the western area, Minister Salman said: We have begun our efforts in both areas to remove armed manifestations as a first step. I think we will succeed if intentions are as good as were promised.

Salman was asked: Have your contacts succeeded in convincing those responsible for [private] radios to stop transmissions? He answered: The contacts are not yet completed. We hope to succeed.

The interior minister was asked: Are there any obstacles from the Lebanese Front hampering the removal of armed manifestations and the implementation of security measures?

Minister Salman said: If we go back a little--to the peripheral meetings, which took place during the Bayt ad-Din conference, we will find that there is unanimous agreement among the influential forces to adopt those decisions. However, our experience in the past few years makes us somewhat reserved. We hope that the pledges made by Lebanese officials will be honored.

From Zgharta Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman went to Tripoli where he had a 75-minute meeting with former Prime Minister Karami. After the meeting minister Salman said: I reviewed with Karami the decisions approved by the cabinet in the wake of the Bayt ad-Din conference, as well as the cabinet executive program. I also briefed him on the action plan which the government is following to implement the program. I heard his views and I will pass them on to the government because Karami had been in power for a long time and there is no doubt that most of his views are correct.

After the meeting Rashid Karami made the following statement: I welcomed Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman's visit. It gave me a chance to hear his explanation of the Bayt ad-Din resolutions and the executive program approved by the cabinet. I explained my point of view to the minister and wished the government success despite the expected difficulties. I emphasize the fact that the favorable Arab and international atmosphere should be exploited to help Lebanon through its ordeal.

During our discussion with Minister Salman, we touched on the subject of the army, which is the tool in the hands of the government for implementating its program. We expressed our view frankly and called for the enactment of a new defense law that would turn the army into a capable, balanced national institution. He added: In my discussion I concentrated on the situation in the south because it is impermissible to remain silent on that situation. We must move in an effective manner in all spheres to bring about the implementation of UN Resolutions 425 and 426 and the extension of the state authority throughout Lebanon. That matter depends on the attitude of the government, which must expedite the implementation of the resolutions.

VOL REPORTS PALESTINIAN CAMPS ALERT IN BEIRUT

NC290642Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 29 Oct 78 NC

[Text] There is a state of alert in the Palestinian camps in Beirut and its suburbs. According to security reports, the state of alert has been in force for a week and the reason given is that Palestinians are anticipating an Israeli attack.

VOL REPORTS ON DAMASCUS CIVIL DEFENSE DRILLS

NC290637Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 29 Oct 78 NC

[Text] According to information received by Voice of Lebanon, Syrian forces entered the Al-Biqa' region recently and set up three fortified positions. The first position is in the Ta'nayil plain, where Syrian forces deployed vehicles and antiaircraft missiles. The second position is about 700 meters from the runways of Ar-Riyaq military airfield.

Antiaircraft missiles were also set up at that position. The third position is in western Al-Biqa', where there is a heavy deployment of vehicles, equipment, artillery pieces and antiaircraft missiles.

These measures come at a time when arrivals from Damascus say that the directorate general of civil defense in the Syrian capital has asked the population, while training them on civil defense operations, to prepare shelters in case of any eventuality.

VOL: SAUDI UNIT EXPECTED IN BEIRUT SOON

NC281600Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 28 Oct 78 NC

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon received a report indicating that a Saudi unit will arrive in Beirut soon to participate in security matters within the framework of the Arab Deterrent Forces.

The Saudi forces will be deployed in Sinn al-Fil and Al-Basha bridge areas while the Lebanese Army will maintain security in the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah area.

The Voice of Lebanon correspondent said that the Syrian forces command is trying to delay handing over to the Saudi forces the positions which have been allocated to them in the area in order to pressure some of the Lebanese on the pretext that the pressure will prompt those elements to implement the executive program of the Bayt ad-Din resolutions.

SNIPER FIRE MARS STATE OF CALM IN BEIRUT

NC292110Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 29 Oct 78 NC

[Text] The calm prevailing in the capital has been marred by occasional sniper fire on some of the traditional axes. The situation became tense in the Sinn al-Fil suburb this evening, but calm soon returned to the area. However, intermittent bursts of fire can be heard from time to time.

VOICE OF LEBANON 30 OCT SECURITY REPORT

NC300711Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 30 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Intermittent shooting could be heard last night in the areas of Sinn al-Fil, Al-Basha bridge, At-Tahwitah, Furn ash-Shubbak, Badaru and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah. Moreover, bursts of gunfire were heard from time to time on the capital's flashpoints.

Three tank shells, two mortar shells and four RPG rockets fell on Sinn al-Fil during the night.

Reports received this morning indicate that care should be exercised to avoid sniper fire, particularly at Al-Hayik traffic circle in Sinn al-Fil and on the roads facing the Syrian positions in the capital and the suburbs. The reports further indicate that two persons were killed and four Lebanese citizens were wounded by sniper fire yesterday.

Meanwhile, Israeli gunboats intercepted two ships near the port of Sidon but released them after searching them and checking their freight.

In implementation of President Sarkis' orders, army forces from Ablah barracks were deployed in the villages of Hjula, 'Aynat and [word indistinct] in the wake of acts of revenge [words indistinct] in the area aimed particularly at preventing the Shi'ite community from demanding information on the fate of Imam as-Sadr and his two companions.

AL-ASAD-LED DELEGATION RETURNS FROM BAGHDAD

JN2619417 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Oct 78 JN

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad returned to Damascus at 1630 today following his fraternal visit to fraternal Iraq, during which several meetings were held between the two leaderships of the two countries. The members of the official delegation which accompanied his excellency the president on this visit also returned.

DAMASCUS REPORTS ON ECONOMIC TALKS WITH IRAQ

JN2808337 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 28 Oct 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad--A meeting took place yesterday between Jamil Shayya, Syrian deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and 'Adnan Husayn, minister of planning in Iraq. Shayya and Husayn, chairmen of the Syrian and Iraqi sides to the Syrian-Iraqi Committee on Economic Affairs, discussed the pan-Arab tasks entrusted to the committee in the field of economic cooperation between the two fraternal countries in light of the historic decisions adopted by the Baghdad summit.

On instructions by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, Shayya and Husayn formulated the work program of the joint economic committee for creating an integrated economy between the two fraternal countries and solving all outstanding issues between them. An expanded preliminary meeting then took place. The meeting was attended by several experts and high-ranking officials. At the outset of the session, the chairmen of the two sides pointed out the significance of the historic stage which has just started for the two peoples and the Arab nation. The two delegations were instructed to find ways to adopt urgent resolutions that would restore the economic relations between the two countries to their normal status and to define the main topics in the industrial, agricultural, oil, irrigation, transport, communications and trade and other fields.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER RETURNS FROM IRAQ

JN2918087 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1735 GMT 29 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 29 October--Jamil Shayya, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, returned to Damascus from Baghdad this afternoon. While in Baghdad, Shayya held economic talks with 'Adnan Husayn, Revolution Command Council member and minister of planning, on the tasks of the Joint Economic Committee stemming from the joint national action chapter between Syria and Iraq.

The talks also touched on various areas of economic cooperation between the two fraternal countries as a prelude to a more comprehensive discussion when the joint economic committee holds a plenary session in the second half of November.

IRAQIS, SYRIANS TO TRAVEL ON ID CARDS

JN2916457 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Oct 78 JN

[Text] The SANA correspondent has learned that it is possible for Syrian and Iraqi Arab citizens to travel within each other's country by using identify cards. The arrangement arises from the joint national action charter signed by Presidents al-Asad and al-Bakr.

Syrian Interior Minister Brig Gen 'Adnan Dabbagh last Thursday issued instructions to the immigration and passports department and border points to grant Syrian and Iraqi Arab citizens the means to move within and travel between the two fraternal Arab countries by use of identity cards.

MEDIA COMMENTS ON BAGHDAD SUMMIT IMPLICATIONS

Enemies React Nervously

JN271615Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Oct 78 JN

[Excerpts] What has been achieved by Damascus and Baghdad is a historic event and a remarkable pan-Arab accomplishment. This event has been received by the masses of the two fraternal countries and the Arab homeland with joy, hope, satisfaction and confidence because it was an expression of the will of the Arab masses and a sincere revolutionary response to their wishes and pan-Arab aspirations. Moreover, it was a definite expression of the potential of the Arab nation and its capacity for miracles. This nation has always been able to create large events, upset the equations and emerge from ordeals victorious, even in the darkest circumstances.

That capability was evident in the Baghdad summit between the leaderships of the two fraternal countries. It was also evident in the charter for joint national action, which places the two fraternal countries on the path of complete unity, providing the Arab nation with a revolutionary and strong reply to thwart the dangers of invasion and occupation and the attempts to impose subjugation and capitulation.

The enemies of the Arabs wagered on abnormal circumstances in the Arab nation, and they thought--while concocting against this nation treacherous traps, liquidation plots and blood baths--they would succeed merely because one traitorous ruler stepped out of the nation. But Damascus and Baghdad toppled the enemy's delusion by means of Arab action and cut short the rope of conspiracy with the nation's sword.

The two fraternal countries today rise with loftiness and pride, as well as with all that is embodied in the Arabism of steadfastness, dignity and pride, to begin the united course of action along the path of unity and steadfastness.

We are confident that the charter for joint national action not only constitutes a firm and effective reply to the big plot, but is also a natural trend along the path of Arab unity. That unity is the precious aim of our people and the requisite of our constant struggle because our strength lies in our unity and because our pan-Arab destiny is linked to our work for that sacred objective.

The charter for joint national action supplies wide horizons for the achievement of this pan-Arab objective. There is no doubt that Arab power which will emanate from coordination and integration between the two fraternal countries on all political, military and economic levels will be the Arab's principal instrument to erect the bastion of steadfastness, with Syria as the citadel and Iraq as the depth. Thus Syria and Iraq give proof of the vitality of this nation as well as its ability to face the challenge, to stand fast and proceed along the road of victory at the time of the black apostacy made incarnate by As-Sadat taking the form of defeat, capitulation and kneeling before the enemy.

There is no doubt that the unified Syrian-Iraqi force, together with all the steadfast Arabs, will be capable not only of foiling the plot and stopping the collapse but also of advancing the Arab nation and confirming its confidence in its creative potentials and then marching ahead to victory. This is what was expressed by struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad when he said: We are confident and optimistic about the inevitability of victory because we are stronger and more determined and because our cause is just. That was also expressed by President al-Bakr when he said: Hence the positive results which ensued from these meetings are a source of goodness for our Arab nation and not only for the peoples in the two fraternal countries.

We realize that all imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat conspiratorial forces will direct all their hatred and conspiratorial methods against Syria and Iraq in particular and the whole Arab nation in general. This was clear in the nervous reaction in the camp of the enemies, especially the racist, Zionist enemy. Hence, we stress that it has to be clear that the threats of the racist, Zionist enemy against our steadfast masses in Baghdad and Damascus will neither frighten us nor make us deviate from what was achieved. On the contrary, they increase our insistence and determination to implement the charter for joint national action and provide the Arab nation with all means of steadfastness.

Damascus and Baghdad today take up the stand of steadfastness, dignity and pride in defense of the Arab nation and pan-Arab existence and in reply to the multifaceted conspiracy. There is no doubt that the entire Arab nation will be at the side of Damascus and Baghdad, of steadfastness in order to cut off the hand of aggression, topple and bury the plot and achieve victory.

Newspapers On Cairo's Isolation

JN3007502 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Oct 78 JN

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Damascus, Baghdad," AL-BA'TH writes the following: What was achieved is a serious event both in history and within the context of the current situation in the area. The national charter lays the cornerstone of a thick wall extending widely and deeply from the eastern part of the Mediterranean to the eastern part of the Arab world. This has not existed since 1918. Therefore, the world should consider it seriously because it constitutes a new formation in the area.

New Syria is not old Syria. Likewise, new Iraq is not old Iraq, particularly following the merger of the two peoples. Add quantity to quality in this part of the equation and we realize the significance of the merger. Available and integrated resources are adequate to make the merger a force capable of reversing the current equations in the area, particularly the As-Sadat-isolationist calculations in Arab Egypt.

AL-BA'TH adds: The kind of formation between Syria and Iraq is strong enough to stand fast, thanks to the visible and corresponding method and tools of action in the two countries. The new formation offers a historic opportunity to move from a regional policy to a pan-Arab policy. The tasks to be implemented following the national charter will incite violent (?responses) in the new imperialist alliance in the area, because these tasks are bound to reverse the calculations.

At any rate, the world is waiting and watching and the Arabs are also waiting and watching.

Under the headline "As-Sadat's Regime Is Not Egypt," TISHRIN writes: The Arab foreign ministers are due to meet in Baghdad today to prepare for the Arab summit conference. This is the first Arab meeting following the Camp David plot. The Arab meeting to study the consequences of the plot is in itself an expression of a joint Arab feeling toward the serious situation resulting from As-Sadat's treasonous and defeatist course and from his alliance with the Israeli enemy against the Arabs.

All Arab countries feel the danger that has resulted from Egypt's deviation including its military, political and manpower weight from the Arab fold. Arabs also feel the danger resulting from the imperialist- Zionist onslaught aimed at dominating the Arab area and exploiting Arab resources. This danger not only threatens a group of Arab countries, but it also threatens every Arab state regardless of its geographical location.

The Arab countries must reiterate their commitment to joint pan-Arab stands and pan-Arab responsibilities toward the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

TISHRIN adds: It is also incumbent upon Arabs to reiterate their commitment to the Arab League charter and resolutions rejecting a separate peace with Israel. The Arabs should also reiterate their commitment to the Arab summit conferences' resolutions, particularly those adopted in Rabat. The Arabs' commitment to their joint stands is in itself a condemnation of deviation, capitulation and defeatism and a denunciation and rejection of the Camp David results which ignore the Arabs' rights and their right to determine their future and which endeavor to disintegrate Arab ranks so it would be easy to deal separately with them.

Arabs, in defending their land, rights, dignity, safety and resources, are also requested to utilize real Arab solidarity against the Zionist-imperialist enemy. Only those who are keen on the joint Arab stands toward the Palestine issue and the issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict can participate in this solidarity.

TISHRIN adds: There is no place in such Arab solidarity for traitors, defeatists, deviationists and those challenging the summit conferences resolutions and the Arab League resolutions rejecting negotiations and separate peace with Israel. Eagerness to preserve Arab solidarity automatically means condemnation of every deviationist course and every action against the unity of Arab ranks. That also means cooperation to nullify and wipe out the capitulationist course. Wiping out the capitulationist course is a pan-Arab task and confronting the imperialist-Zionist onslaught is a pan-Arab task.

In conclusion, the mingling between such a pan-Arab task and eagerness to preserve Egypt in the Arab fold is a wrong action and does not serve Arab solidarity or the Arab struggle. Therefore, isolating As-Sadat's regime or even overthrowing it does not mean in any case the isolation of Egypt from Arab ranks. The contrary is true. The extinction of As-Sadat's defeatist and treasonous regime [words indistinct].

ATH-THAWRAH Comments

JN270827Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 Oct 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] The daily paper ATH-THAWRAH headlines its editorial "Damascus-Baghdad: The Shortest Distances, the Most Dangerous Ones." ATH-THAWRAH says: We would like to stress three points while we approach the threshhold of the Damascus-Baghdad qualitative turning point. We would like to stress these points so as not to isolate this phenomenon from its surrounding circumstances and to make sure that we will not be overwhelmed by dreams.

The first point: There is nothing more important in this phase than the threat to our fateful pan-Arab struggle posed by Zionism and imperialism, especially since the Egyptian regime became a part of the Zionist force aimed at the Arab nation and its cause.

The second point: There is nothing that might prevent Damascus from heading toward unity. Furthermore, there is nothing that might darken the pan-Arab vision of Damascus.

The third point: There is nothing stronger than Syrian-Iraqi unity.

ATH-THAWRAH exposed the conspiratorial intentions of the Zionist-imperialist-As-Sadat treaty. The paper says: They have planned for Camp David to be the axis and the factory which will haphazardly arrange seditious plans for the area in order to humiliate Arab land, the Arab man and Arab history. They planned for As-Sadat to be a slave to implement Washington's will and yield to the desires of Tel Aviv. However,the based their calculations on the existing disordered pan-Arab bonds. They strongly believed that the principles and feelings of the pan-Arab bonds are in a deep coma, particularly as there is a deep gap between Damascus and Baghdad. This was their starting point. Their phased success made them believe that it was the right time to address the matter of pan-Arab bonds. They were convinced that As-Sadat was the axis of Arab leadership. Yet they soon discovered that As-Sadat represents only himself and his personal eccentricity.

In its editorial ATH-THAWRAH emphasized that those familiar with Damascus and the Damascus leader realize that the national meeting is not born out of a vacuum, nor is it a result of compulsory circumstances. On the contrary, it expresses a genuine pan-Arab feeling deeply rooted in this country and patronized by its leader, Hafiz al-Asad, who extends this feeling to Baghdad and to any other Arab capital prepared to react to this pan-Arab feeling.

Hence, we can say that the Baghdad meeting achieved a multiple pan-Arab victory. Several aspects of the victory have been translated into immediate action, while the rest of the aspects are still on the way, waiting for well-organized effort and continuous struggle. ATH-THAWRAH adds: Then we have the right to say that Damascus and Baghdad translated their common origin into a national accord that has placed everything at the service of the pan-Arab bond. Damascus and Baghdad rose above all wounds and complications. Moreover, the two Arab capitals realized that the pains of the past could be a great lesson for the present and future if those pains are contained by revolutionary will. The two Arab capitals further realized that the pan-Arab path is one, regardless of geographical distance between Damascus and Baghdad. Damascus went to Baghdad with all love and sincerity, carrying the fate of the Arab nation. Baghdad received from Damascus its responsibilities and its plans. It was a great meeting during which Baghdad and Damascus exchanged the Arab sword. Damascus and Baghdad bypassed ordeals created by the "others" between Cairo and occupied Jerusalem and between Cairo and Camp David. The two Arab capitals also bypassed the intrinsic ordeal. Leader President Hafiz al-Asad announced that the Baghdad meeting is only the first step on the way toward the unity of the two countries. That is an irresistible Arab demand because there is no alternative to unity.

ATH-THAWRAH concludes: Hafiz al-Asad raised the pan-Arab flag when he went to Baghdad. He worked for needed unity. He devised the other part of the formula to address the Middle East conflict. Those in overseas autocratic capitals have said that Hafiz al-Asad went to Baghdad in order to solve all the problems that As-Sadat caused for the Arabic body through his ill-omened trip from Cairo to occupied Jerusalem.

TISHRIN Condemns Israeli Threats

JN280924Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 28 Oct 78 JN

[Excerpts] The political editor of TISHRIN today writes: At a time when Arabs received with hope, optimism and support the news about the Damascus-Baghdad meeting and their agreement to jointly confront the Camp David plot and the treason of the As-Sadat regime, reaction of the plot's engineers had been precipitous, nervous and provocative, reflecting disappointment, rancor and surprise. The Israeli enemy has reached the point of uttering blatant threats of aggression against Syria and Iraq and warning them against realizing joint cooperation, particularly militarily.

TISHRIN asserts that Syrian-Iraqi cooperation in all fields will go ahead as agreed upon at the Baghdad talks and in accordance with what will be agreed upon at current and future bilateral meetings. The paper adds that the impudent Israeli threats will neither frighten Syria nor Iraq. Syria, in confronting the plot, took into consideration all eventualities and is prepared to face all eventualities. Our people in Syria and Iraq are determined to continue their struggle to thwart the enemy's schemes. They are not frightened of Israeli threats. Israeli threats will be faced by further consolidation of unified pan-Arab action and by a determination to forge ahead along the road whose landmarks were formulated during the Baghdad talks.

Quoting Arab political sources, TISHRIN says that Israeli threats against Syria and Iraq reflect the great importance of cooperation between the two fraternal countries and expose the Israeli task of preventing achievement of every unified Arab action. Those threats also expose the aggressive nature of the Zionist entity.

Quoting well-informed sources, TISHRIN says that what was achieved at the Baghdad talks between the Syrian and Iraqi leadership stemmed from the two sides' conviction that should Arab resources and capabilities of the two fraternal countries unify to confront the plot, they would be capable of putting an end to the current collapse in the Arab homeland--the collapse backed by As-Sadat and his allies.

The two countries were also convinced that through their unified action, they are capable of restoring the nation's confidence in its future and in its inevitable victory.

Syria, Iraq Will Not Succumb

JN281313Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Oct 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "Yes to Arabism and a Thousand No's to Precipitous Threats," ATH-THAWRAH comments on the outcome of the Baghdad summit and considers it a practical manifestation of pan-Arab ambition that has suffered division and disintegration for a long time.

The paper adds: The Baghdad summit took the enemy forces by surprise. As our masses expressed their happiness over the unity of struggle between the two countries, the enemy forces reacted nervously and voraciously. The Zionist enemy threatens that he will not permit the continuation of what is taking place between Damascus and Baghdad and that he will not permit it to bear fruit. It looks as if the enemy is admitting that every meeting on the eastern front constitutes a big step toward the Golan. Nowadays, we hear Washington saying that the United States is preparing for peace in the area and that it is taking into consideration the fact that Arab reality should go on as it is. Washington only understands the Syrian-Iraqi meeting as a (?threat) to U.S. efforts and interests in the area.

Threats are therefore a logical and sound reply, because what took place in Baghdad and what was asserted by the two Arab leaders--Hafiz al-Asad and Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr--is in form and substance a rejection of defeatism, a confrontation of the game of collapse and an assertion of the course and movement of pan-Arab struggle.

ATH-THAWRAH asserts that the Baghdad summit is more powerful than threats. Following the historic meeting of the two great leaders, we will not succumb to threats. We will not permit the threats to move an inch toward our people and land.

ATH-THAWRAN says: We met to fend off the danger. We united to achieve freedom. We rushed to begin the march of building the contemporary Arab revolution. If they want a war, we are ready for it. We said this before the meeting. We said that we are ready to confront and to wage the battle separately with Washington, Tel Aviv and As-Sadat. Today we say it with confidence, awareness and determination that we will not wait for them to grant us peace as a gift. We will not accept anyone dictating to us his conditions and whims.

The meeting of the revolutionaries in Baghdad came to say no to Washington and no and a thousand no's to Israel. The meeting of the revolutionaries in Baghdad came to tell the masses that the Arab revolution has started and the march of liberation and freedom has also started. History has taught us that contemporary Arab glory is built on the Arab bridge extending from Damascus and Baghdad.

AL-BA'TH On U.S. 'Games'

JN290723Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 29 Oct 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH headlines its commentary "The Nation's Self-Defense." The paper says: It is crystal clear that engineers of the U.S. game, who are deeply involved in carrying out their conspiratorial game to reimpose imperialist domination of the Arab homeland, have forgotten that the Arab nation will not hesitate to fight its "to be or not to be" battle which will definitely lead to the creation of new circumstances. New circumstances will show that it is impossible to repeat history. The engineers of the U.S. peace game have not only forgotten that fact but they have also ignored their past experience with the Arab nation.

The paper then reviews the imperialist onslaughts against the Arab masses between 1958-78. AL-BA'TH concludes: The results of the Baghdad meeting between Presidents al-Asad and al-Bakr came in accordance with general and deep-rooted belief in pan-Arab bonds and principles. The two presidents raised the level of historical responsibility of the two fraternal countries. The two leaders realized the serious threats aimed at the Arab nation; hence, their historic meeting which resulted in the joint national accord.

PRESIDE'T RECEIVES PLO CHAIRMAN, OFFICIALS

JN281547Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Oct 78 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1600 today Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman; Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council; PLO Executive Committee members Faruq al-Qaddumi, Zhuayr Muhsin, 'Abd al-Muhsin abu Mayzar, Talal Naji, Yasir 'abd Rabbuh, Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi and Salah Khalaf, Fatah Central Committee member.

President al-Asad was briefed on the decisions of the PLO Central Council. President al-Asad reviewed the results of his historic visit to Baghdad. Discussion also dealt with the situation in the Arab area and the issues to be discussed by the forthcoming Baghdad Arab summit conference.

ALGERIA

BOUMEDIENE REPORTED TO HAVE THROAT PROBLEM

LD271358Y Rabat MAP in English 1252 GMT 27 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Paris, 27 Oct (MAP)--Algerian President Houari Boumediene, whose bark was always worse than his bite, has now lost his voice, according to the German news agency DPA here Friday. After vanishing for three weeks in late September, President Boumediene suddenly appeared in Moscow, where according to DPA, he is still under treatment for "violent muscle pains in his throat."

The German news agency said that the Algerians asked the Iraqis to postpone their November 1 Arab summit until Boumediene was able to attend, but Baghdad failed to comply.

To Miss Baghdad Summit

TA291900Y Paris AFP in English 1851 GMT 29 Oct 78 TA

[Excerpt] Algiers, 29 Oct (AFP)--Algerian President Houari Boumediene, who is in Moscow for medical treatment, will not participate in the Arab summit in Baghdad on Thursday, informed sources said here today.

It is also unlikely that Col Boumediene will be here on Wednesday to attend celebrations for Algeria's national day, the anniversary of the outbreak of armed resistance against France in 1954, the sources added.

No official statement has been released and the Algerian press has still not mentioned the president's illness, printing only communiques from the Soviet capital announcing that he will extend his stay there. Yesterday's statement by an Algerian diplomatic source in Moscow saying that Col Boumediene's health had improved markedly was not reported here today. In spite of the official silence, it has been learned that his medical problem dates at least from September at the time of the summit by nations of the "Arab Steadfastness Front" in Damascus.

BOUMEDIENE CONGRATULATES SYRIAN, IRAQI PRESIDENTS

LD291432Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Oct 78 LD

[Text] The positive results of the Baghdad meeting between presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ahmad Hazan al-Bakr are still being commented on favorably by Arabs all over the Arab homeland. Brother Houari Boumediene, president of the Republic and of the Council of the Revolution sent a cable to the Syrian and Iraqi presidents which says: It is my pleasure to express to your excellencies in the name of the Algerian people, party and government and in my own name our utmost appreciation and admiration of the wise, revolutionary initiative your two commands have adopted, which was crowned by the announcement of the joint action charter concluded between Syria and Iraq to set up a solid front to shoulder its pan-Arab responsibilities in the face of dangers threatening the very existence and destiny of our Arab people, particularly considering the grave situation into which some Arab countries have fallen. The announcement of the charter truly reflects the aspirations of our popular masses which aspire always to the continuation of their struggling march.

In addition to being an important step leading to the success of the Arab summit conference to be held in Baghdad and a guide for our Arab people in all countries to follow to end feuds and stop conflicts through rational, constructive dialog, this charter is the decisive reply to foil imperialist-Zionist designs seeking to break up our steadfast front and destroy the gains and heritage of our Arab people.

The agreement has added new strength to the wise Arab people's ranks headed by the National Pan-Arab Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation, thus bolstering its progressive stands and developing its methods of struggle in a manner compatible with the current conditions created by the capitulationist quarters in our Arab world.

Boumediene's cable goes on to say: I am confident that the announcement of the charter will not only enable the northern front to realize its hope of playing its historic role against Zionism but will prompt our masses into further solidarity and consolidation and bolster the Arab struggle against challenges and threats and put an end to all capitulationist deviations and solutions.

Algeria has always felt the time has come for the adoption of a step like yours. We and some of our brothers sincerely wish to help in conciliation because we consider this to be the right course of struggle for freedom and progress. The accord you achieved in your Baghdad meeting, the cable goes on to say, constitutes an important step in our masses' march toward our desired goal because it is one of the principal pivots which our popular masses longed for during their long struggle.

Foreign Minister Bouteflika addressed a similar cable to his Syrian and Iraqi counterparts.

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR BAGHDAD ARAB SUMMIT

LD291838Y Algiers APS in French 1400 GMT 29 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Algiers--Redha Malek, minister of information and culture, left Algiers today for Baghdad where he will head the Algerian delegation to the ministerial conference preparatory to the Arab summit, which is to open tomorrow in the Iraqi capital.

The delegation, led by Redha Malek, comprises the following figures: Ambassadors Abderrahmane Cheriet; M'hammed Yazid, ambassador to Lebanon; Abdelkader Benkaci, director of Arab Countries Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mohamed Kadri, ambassador to Saudi Arabia; as well as Abdelkader Bousselham, ambassador to the Ivory Coast; Saad Eddinne Nouiouat, ambassador to PDRY; and Hachemi Kaddouri, director general of political affairs, director for Arab countries and subdirector for Arab countries in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ALGERIA, ROMANIA SIGN CONSULAR AGREEMENT

LD281810Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 28 Oct 78 LD

[Summary] "A consular agreement for the development of consular relations between Algeria and the (?Socialist) Republic of Romania was signed this morning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The document was signed for the Algerian side by (Ali Salah), director general of consular affairs and agreements at the Foreign Ministry, and for the Romanian side by Ioan Lazarescu, Romanian ambassador to Algiers.

After the signing, the Algerian director general spoke of the agreement as proof of the two countries' will to develop efforts in the consular field and promote the protection of their interests and their nationals. He referred to the judicial agreement initialled earlier this month and said that the present consular convention is the first of its kind as it lists the rights and duties of consulates and consular staff. The Romanian ambassador said on the same occasion that he welcomed the development of friendship between the two countries along the lines defined by Presidents Boumediene and Ceausescu.

LIBYA

FOREIGN SECRETARY LEAVES FOR BAGHDAD CONFERENCE

LD291504Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Foreign secretary 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki left for Baghdad this morning heading a Libyan delegation to attend the Arab foreign ministers conference beginning tomorrow morning in the Iraqi capital in preparation for the Arab summit conference scheduled to convene on 2 November. The delegation includes the assistant under secretary for political affairs and some directors of the Foreign Secretariat.

MALTESE PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF ARRIVES

LD291502Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff arrived at the Tripoli international airport this morning on a visit to the Jamahiriyah. He was welcomed at the airport by brother Mansur Badr, the maritime transport secretary, chief of protocol and head of the Arab desk at the Foreign Secretariat, and the Maltese charge d'affaires in the Jamahiriyah.

JANA REPORTS ON LIBYAN PEOPLE'S CONGRESSES

LD292232Y Tripoli JANA in English 1618 GMT 29 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 29 Oct JANA--The basic people's congresses continued for the second week the discussion of the third normal session's agenda which consists of 17 items including domestic and foreign policies. The masses continued yesterday the discussion of their daily life question, shouldering their responsibilities in whatever their congresses decide. The civil services controllers answered all queries raised by the citizens concerning their areas.

MAURITANIA

PRESIDENT MAKES STATEMENT UPON RETURN FROM BAMAKO

LD291754Z Tripoli JANA in English 1457 GMT 29 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Nouakchott, 29 October, JANA--The Western Sahara Committee of the Organisation of African Unity is due to hold its first meeting in Khartoum between the 20th and 24th of next November. This was revealed in an announcement by Mauritanian President Moustapha Ould Saleck yesterday in the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott. The announcement came after the president's return from Bamako where he participated in the economic summit meeting for West African states.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA DEPARTS FOR FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

LD282134Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Oct 78 LD

[Summary] Mhamed Boucetta, Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation and a delegation accompanying him, left for Baghdad this afternoon. They will represent Morocco at the Arab foreign ministers meeting to be held in Baghdad on 30 October in preparation for the Arab summit conference in the Iraqi capital on 2 November.

RADIO-TV COOPERATION TALKS WITH USSR BEGIN

LD271552Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Oct 78 LD

[Excerpt] The first session of Moroccan-Soviet talks to discuss radio and television cooperation and exchanges between Moroccan radio and television and the radio and television authority of the USSR, which stem from the cultural and scientific cooperation agreement signed between the two countries in 1966, was held this morning at Moroccan Radio and Television headquarters. The Soviet side at these talks were headed by Yevstafyev, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, who last night arrived for this purpose heading an important delegation. The Moroccan side was headed by Ben Nasser Driss, assistant director general of the Moroccan Radio and Television Service.

SUDAN

OFFICIALS RESIGN IN CAMP DAVID PROTEST

Baghdad: SSU Leader Resigns

JN262001Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 26 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 26 October--As-Sadiq al-Hahdi resigned from his post as member of the Political Bureau of the Sudanese Socialist Union [SSU] in view of Sudan's stand in support of the Camp David agreements. This was announced by As-Sadiq al-Mahdi to the INA correspondent in Khartoum.

It will be recalled that the foreign relations committees of the SSU and the People's Assembly and the National Defense Committee of the People's Assembly, which had been entrusted by President Ja'far Numayri to study the agreements and documents, submitted a report to President Numayri categorically rejecting the agreements.

Damascus Reports Minister's Resignation

JN292142Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 29 Oct 78 JN

[Text] The energy minister of the Sudanese Government yesterday announced his resignation in protest against President Ja'far Numayri's support for the traitorous Camp David agreements, only one day after the resignation of As-Sadiq al-Mahdi from the membership of the Politburo of the Sudanese Socialist Union for the same reason.

The front of the Sudanese Democratic Forces also decided to issue a statement denouncing the Camp David agreements and the initiative of the Egyptian ruler. The front will also assert its rejection of and protest against President Ja'far Numayri's support for those agreements.

It will be recalled that the two foreign affairs committees at the SSU and the People's Assembly as well as the Assembly's National Defense Committee entrusted by President Numayri to study the Camp David agreements reported to him their rejection and condemnation of the two agreements as being tantamount to treason against the just struggle being waged by the Arab nation to liberate the occupied Arab areas and regain the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

FRG PRESIDENT SCHEEL VISITS NUMAYRI IN KHARTOUM

JN291054Y Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 29 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Oct (SUNA)--Federal German President Walter Scheel last night stopped over Khartoum airport on his way home after concluding a state visit to New Zealand, Australia and Mauritius. He was welcomed at the airport by President Numayri where they reviewed, in an 80-minute meeting, progress of bilateral relations, the situation in Africa and the Middle East.

CONFERENCE DELEGATION'S COMPOSITION, GOALS STATED

JN291133Y Khartoum SUNA in English 1045 GMT 29 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum 29 Oct (SUNA)--The Sudan will be represented by three ambassadors in the meetings of Arab foreign ministers tomorrow in Baghdad, said President Numayri last night here. In an interview with Fu'ad Matar, chief editor of the Paris Arab-language magazine, AL-MUSTAQBAL, the president said Sudan would attend the Arab summit conference provided that the gathering should not aim at isolating Egypt. The president said ambassadors to Egypt, Kuwait and Lebanon would attend the Arab foreign ministers conference for Sudan. He told the Lebanese journalist:

"Sudan still adheres to resolutions adopted by the Algiers and Rabat Arab summits (in 1973 and 1974 respectively,) which recognize the Palestinian Liberation Organization as the sole representative of the Palestinian people."

At the same time last night the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a press release on the Baghdad Arab foreign ministers conference. It said Sudan's ambassador to Egypt, Muhammad Mirghani, would lead the delegation to the conference. The delegation will include Sudanese ambassadors to Lebanon, Kuwait and the charge d'affaires in Iraq.

The release quoted the state minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Francis Deng as saying in a press statement that Sudan would do its utmost to ascertain the objectives of the Arab struggle. "High on top of them is the Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands, including Jerusalem and restoration of legal rights of Palestinians to self-determination and establishment of their state."

Dr Deng said the Sudan delegation would call for an overall evaluation of the conflict since its emerge [as received] in 1948. It will also advocate an objective assessment of Camp David accords to determine their positive aspects and abide by them as preliminary steps towards a just and durable peace. They would pinpoint the negative ones with a view to intensifying collective Arab action and international effort for surmounting obstacles in the course of a lasting and just peace, the minister said.

Dr Deng added that the Sudan delegation would, throughout the deliberations, work for realizing Arab solidarity as the sole guarantee for attaining the Arab nation's goals. At the same time, he went on, the delegation will stand against any call for further discord and division of the Arab rank. Concluding his statement, Dr Deng disclosed that the Sudan stance towards the forthcoming Arab summit would be determined by the expected positive results of the ministerial conference which has to add to the unity of the Arab nation in its collective struggle.

TRADE UNIONS FEDERATIONS ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT

JN291822Y Khartoum SUNA in English 1750 GMT 29 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 29 October--Sudanese and Eritrean trade unions federations denounced brutal suppression practiced by colonialism against the Eritrean people and called on the labour class of the Soviet Union and Cuba to oppose any assistance to the facist Ethiopian regime. In a statement issued today after a joint meeting, the two sides called on Eritrean revolution fronts to unite and blessed Sudan's efforts to achieve this unity and to find out a peaceful solution to guarantee an independent state for the Eritreans. The two sides agreed to joint efforts to consolidate the Eritrean question in the Afro-Arab and international forms.

A joint meeting will be held every three months to examine these efforts. The Sudan Trade Union Federation will offer aids to Eritrean labourers working in Sudan, the statement said.

TUNISIA

PARIS REPORTS BOURGUIBA 'VERY SERIOUSLY ILL'

LD271828Y Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 27 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Tunisian President Bourguiba is very seriously ill. In the past few days he has been under treatment in Paris at the Fernand-Vidal Hospital but he has just been urgently transported to a German clinic. Officially, President Bourguiba is suffering from insomnia. He is 77.

Travels to Cologne 'for Tests'

LD272030Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Oct 78 LD

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba left Paris this afternoon for Cologne. After having had primary preparatory tests carried out in France, the great struggler will continue these tests in the FRG.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR BAGHDAD CONFERENCE

LD271805Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Oct 78 LD

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri left this evening for Baghdad to take part in the Arab foreign ministers' conference Monday. It is to prepare for the Arab summit conference scheduled for November.

BEN-ELISAR DISCUSSES FLESHING OUT IMPACT ON NEGOTIATIONS

TA271648Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1505 GMT 27 Oct 78 TA

[From the Weekly Newsreel]

[Text] Two differently worded messages arrived in Jerusalem today--one message, from Secretary of State Vance and another, which arrived this morning at the prime minister's office, from President Carter. The background to these messages is the cabinet's decision to flesh out the settlements in Judaea and Samaria. The diplomatic storm is not alarming Jerusalem. This is an artificial storm, the director general of the prime minister's office, Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar said, and he adds that it might have been encouraged by elements interested in this. Our correspondent Zevi Lidar speaks with the director general of the prime minister's office on the issue of the fleshing out, Saudners' mission and the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations. [begin recording]

[Lidar] There is an atmosphere of crisis in the air. Two severe messages from Washington, hinted threats about the withdrawal of the Egyptian delegation to the negotiations back to Cairo and all this in the wake of the cabinet's decision to flesh out the existing settlements in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

The director general of the prime minister's office, Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, is surprised at the thunderous reactions coming from the United States and Egypt. Since the signing of the Camp David agreements, he says, there has been no cessation of work on the settlements in Judaea and Samaria, not even for a day.

[Ben-Elisar] What is regarded today as a kind of storm has arisen in the United States--I must say that I am the first to be surprised that such a storm has arisen. First of all, it was absolutely clear that we would continue the process of strengthening existing settlements. This was declared by the prime minister explicitly and publicly the day after Camp David and during Camp David.

[Lidar] If that is the case, why did the fleshing out not begin immediately after Camp David?

[Ben-Elisar] I repeat, we have not stopped for even 1 day the work in this field. The units that have to be ready for housing were being built, and we have not stopped this construction. When the units are completed the designated families will take posession, exactly according to plan. We are not talking about new plans that have suddenly been made in reaction to anything or because something has happened. This is certainly not the case. The gradual process, which was planned in advance, is continuing. We have never stopped it, we have no intention of stopping and for the sake of good relations, we said this to both the Americans and the Egyptians. Everyone knew about this, and the press also mentioned this. Therefore, I am surprised by the storm that has arisen, and I have the impression that this is an artificial storm--that is, that someone was interested in stirring up things over this issue.

[Liddar] If work was being continued all the time, why was the cabinet's statement, which gained such prominent publicity, necessary, in which the allotment of hundreds of millions of pounds was mentioned in great detail?

[Ben-Elisar] First of all, there was no official publicity by the government on any decision. It was the press that made things public. Second, I must point out that financial allocations on the scale mentioned have not yet been approved. We are only discussing future budgets, but if it is necessary to make additional allocations, the cabinet will decide this. It is very important to stress that we are doing everything openly and are doing everything exactly in accordance with our commitments, with our statements and with everything that was said both to the U.S. President and to U.S. diplomats.

[Lidar] Apparently despite this the Egyptians were surprised. And it has been reported that they are considering severe moves in reaction to this.

[Ben-Elisar] I know nothing about this. I can say that I know nothing about the moves being planned by the Egyptians. I do not think that they should consider our actions a violation of the process of signing a peace treaty with them--of the deliberations on a peace treaty. It is certainly not directed against them and, furthermore, they also knew that we would continue our plans to strengthen settlements during those 3 months mentioned by the prime minister, but would not establish new settlements during these 3 months.

[Lidar] Later on, will new settlements be established in Judaea and Samaria?

[Ben-Elisar] I certainly hope that these will be established.

[Lidar] You hope, or is there a decision on this matter?

[Ben-Elisar] I am not authorized to speak about decisions now, however, my hope also speaks for itself.

[Lidar] Dr Ben-Elisar, the foreign minister's remarks hint that this decision--to flesh out--came, among other things, in the wake of the positions expressed here by Harold Saunders during his visit to Israel. Is this a direct reaction to this?

[Ben-Elisar] No. This is not a reaction, but I cannot hide the anger of all of us when we learned of Harold Saunders' answers to Jordan to the questions submitted by King Husayn. In addition, there was the content of certain conversations conducted by Harold Sauders with Arab notables. We were angry. Mr Saunders made remarks which should not have been made. However, the cabinet's decisions are not a reaction to this. I have no doubt that we would have continued on our path without this. At the same time, we certainly were angry with what Harold Saunders said and brought with him.

[Lidar] Are you prepared to elaborate on what caused so much anger?

[Ben-Elisar] I think that it would be wise if I do not elaborate, because I have already made very explicit remarks.

[Lidar] Can I assume from your remarks that Saunders' mission did not contribute to the advancement of the negotiations on the issue of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip?

[Ben-Elisar] I would say that his remarks caused us to have certain thoughts. I do not want to say that it makes things difficult or easy because, in the long run, we sincerely intend to continue the negotiations with Egypt and to achieve self rule, to which we committed ourselves at Camp David. I will only say that Saunders' mission certainly did not help.

[Lidar] Is there any intention to limit the activity and movement of U.S. diplomats in Judaea and Samaria--their conversations with Palestinians?

[Ben-Elisar] We live in a free state and everyone can meet with everyone. We do, of course, expect that foreign subjects in the State of Israel refrain from what they don't like foreign subjects to do in their own country.

[Lidar] Remarks have been made that this activity by American diplomats verges on subversion against the state?

[Ben-Elisar] I would not like to use vulgar words, but we have noticed that certain things that have been said would have been better left unsaid.

[Lidar] It has been said that the Egyptians are angry, not only over the issue of fleshing out, but also over the decision or intention to transfer the prime minister's office to East Jerusalem. Was it wise to make public this intention or statement at this time?

[Ben-Elisar] It is absolutely clear to the Egyptians that we regard united Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. I am not sure that they are angered as described by the media. I am not sure. I would suggest to all of us that we not exaggerate this. Let us not forget that As-Sadat was in Jerusalem and made no difficulties, which are sometimes caused by foreign guests on certain visits to Jerusalem--not only the Egyptian people but the whole of the Arab world saw As-Sadat in Jerusalem. After all, Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. I do not see the prime minister's idea creating special problems for us.

DAYAN, WEIZMAN INTERVIEWED ON WASHINGTON PEACE TALKS

NC2810202Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 28 Oct 78 NC

[From the Weekly Newsreel]

[Text] Our correspondent in Washington, Shalom Qital, talked with Minister Dayan and Weizman on the course of the negotiations and the difficulties that are cropping up. [begin recording]

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, are the talks in Washington facing a crisis?

[Dayan] The talks between us and the Americans regarding the peace treaty are not, for the time being, facing a crisis. They are proceeding as scheduled. However, there is no doubt that the question of the Egyptian delegation's attitude is a major factor in this matter. If the Egyptian delegation returns to the talks--and today we had no talks with them--and continues the negotiations which we have already started, then in spite of the many difficulties caused by the changes demanded by the Egyptian delegation and the changes that we are demanding; I say, in spite of these difficulties, which are not connected with the settlements' issue, I think an agreement can be reached because, in the long run, both sides are interested in a peace agreement. However, if the Egyptian delegation is recalled home because of the Israeli Government's decision to add people to the settlements, and if Egypt decides to discontinue the talks, then our talks with the Americans cannot continue for long--we are not holding peace negotiations with the United States. Without the Egyptians, there is no sense in continuing the talks.

[Question] Do you think that there is a possibility that the talks will be actually terminated, or that the Egyptians are going back for consultations--just as you and 'Ezer Weizman went back for consultations?

[Dayan] I have no idea what Egypt will do. The two analogies are not identical. Naturally, if they say that they are going to Egypt for consultations and, like us, they say that they will return in 2 or 3 days, then this will not cause any crisis.

It is their privilege to return for consultations--whatever the reason for these consultations might be. However, this is a temporary break and we will wait 2 or 3 days for them, just as they waited for us. But I am talking about another possibility, not about returning for consultations, but about an Egyptian decision--if there is such a decision, and I do not have any knowledge, for the time being, of such a decision--and if such a decision has been made because of the Israeli Government's decision and if they say that they do not want to continue the peace negotiations, then this will naturally cause a crisis.

[Question] Mr Defense Minister, 'Ezer Weizman, you have been here for 2 weeks and we have not yet heard your opinions in detail. At this hour, when it is possible that the departure of Egypt's delegation is imminent, how do you assess what is happening here in the Washington conference?

[Weizman] First of all, nowhere has it been said that such a departure is imminent. This is a possibility which is unknown to us. What has been said in Cairo up to now, as far as I know, is that they have been recalled for consultations. I hope that they will, nevertheless, understand the problems we are facing in Israel: Both Cairo and Washington still fail to understand us, and that we will be able to continue the talks in the near future just as we did prior to the current crisis.

[Question] Mr Dayan, you had an opportunity to see Egypt's proposed amendments. Naturally, you also submitted Israel's proposed amendments, I think you termed them as substantial amendments. Can this gap be bridged?

[Dayan] This gap must be bridged, because if one wants to make peace there is no choice but to make concessions and compromises and to close the gaps. There is no other way. Unless there is a war and one of the sides raises it hands and surrenders unconditionally, and accepts diktats. However, such is not the case now. We are not in a state of diktats now, but of negotiations. An understanding must be reached, but gaps cannot be bridged without concessions. In spite of the hard attitudes of amendments proposed by the parties--it is very easy for us to view the Egyptian proposals as very hard--I think it is not only imperative but that it is also possible to reach an agreement, provided the talks are actually conducted as they should and as they were when they started.

Before the first Israeli soldier withdraws from the Sinai, and before the first Israeli settlement is transferred and even before getting into the mode for a withdrawal, one must make absolutely sure that the desk is cleared--as they say. It is not possible to put all of these issues to a practical test. So, I am not sorry, even for a moment, for this incident and for other incidents which, instead of remaining vague and in the dark, are eventually cleared up during the negotiations, that is, prior to the signing of an agreement and during the period of clarifications.

[Question] You are referring to the fleshing out?

[Dayan] Now about the fleshing out. It is possible that this will not be the only issue. I am saying that this refers to the fleshing out of the settlements at present, as far as we are concerned. I have also cited another example; namely, the exaggerated expectations of some Israelis. These expectations are--I emphasize--not related to Egypt's abandoning the course of war, because it will have to abandon war with us when it signs the peace treaty, but to its attachment to the entire Arab world.

To expect that suddenly Egypt will sever its links with the Arab world--these are unrealistic expectations.

[Question] 'Ezer Weizman, do you, like Moshe Dayan, believe that it is preferable now to clear up an issue that has caused a storm here; namely, the decision to flesh out the settlements?

[Weizman] I think there are very profound issues between us and the United States. In my talks prior to the Camp David talks with several U.S. leaders--with the President and the secretary of state--I emphasized, as I am emphasizing today, that there is a difference between the factors involved and the substance of some of the topics on which we have arguments. If there are differences, it is better that the arguments on these differences take place now than later. I said this today, as well, to some of those in the United States [as heard].

[Question] Do you support the fleshing out of settlements at this time?

[Weizman] I support the fleshing out of settlements. I think this could have been done long ago. There were several reasons that it was not done. I do not think that at the moment we should analyze whether this should have been done this way or in another way. The fact is that the cat is out of the bag concerning an issue that is very important to all Israelis. It is better that the cat be out of the bag today than after signing an agreement.

[Question] What do you think of the Egyptian reaction to this issue? On several occasions you have noted that the Egyptians are sensitive to various problems and at various times during the negotiations. How do you see this now?

[Weizman] I think their sensitivity has not changed. At any rate, I hope, and I estimate that we will transcend this crisis, because the desire for peace in both countries is strong. We have gone such a long way that, at the moment, it is hard for me to believe that even with what is happening we will go back and that the negotiations will fail.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, it has been noted that, concerning the fleshing out of settlements, we have an argument not only with the Egyptians, but with the Americans as well. On this issue, the overt arguments are mainly between us and the Americans. Yesterday, you pointed a finger at a U.S. official, Harold Saunders. How would you describe the U.S. attitude at this hour? You have just come out of your meeting with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

[Dayan] The finger was not pointed at Saunders personally. He was only conveying the U.S. point of view. By the same token, these viewpoints could have been expressed by the secretary of state or anyone representing the United States on this issue. However, I will repeat what I told them during a conversation in which Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and I participated. The gist of what I told them is this: We were the ones who proposed the abolishment of military rule, and we were the ones who proposed autonomy. We want peace, and we are conducting negotiations on the basis of a coexistence in Judaea and Samaria, in Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. This is the basis. We do not want to rule them, but we also do not want to evacuate these areas. We want to live together with them. This is our basis for negotiations. However, the United States--certainly the Arabs, but particularly the United States--has another concept which is different and, at times, contradictory to our concept. If in their replies to King Husayn they express the U.S. stand, it is their privilege to do so. However, they cannot expect us, at a time when they are publicly announcing their stand, to remain silent and not to express our stand.

Second, the question is not one of expressing an opinion but of carrying it out. So, when there is a gap in attitudes, the United States should know that we are conducting peace negotiations on the basis of a coexistence in Judaea and Samaria and not on the basis of an evacuation, or of a thinning out or a freezing up or any such thing. There is a divergence of attitudes, and because of this the Israeli Government is representing Israel and the U.S. administration is representing the United States. It is clear that attitudes are different and at variance. However, I do not think that there is any room for surprise on their part because we are conducting an Israeli policy and not an American policy in Judaea and Samaria.

[Question] What was your impression of Cyrus Vance's attitude, considering that he has already been aware of the proposed Israeli and Egyptian amendments? I understand there are certain matters which do not fit. For example, Egypt is demanding an increase in its links with Judaea and Samaria while, in our treaty with Egypt, we want to weaken this link. And what about the U.S. attitude?

[Dayan] The U.S. attitude is that it does not see legal linkage between the framework agreements of Camp David and the peace treaty that is being worked out between us and Egypt. As for the amendments and changes, the United States has various opinions on the various proposals. What I am saying is that, generally, there are certain things in the Egyptian proposals which are hard for us to take and, perhaps, vice versa. However, if this were to be the only issue, the two parties would have no choice but to meet each other halfway and to make concessions and reach an agreement.

[Question] Gentlemen, we have been discussing the question of timing; and we have just received the news of the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Menahem Begin and Anwar as-Sadat. Will this have an effect on the talks, 'Ezer Weizman?

[Weizman] I do not know whether this will have an effect on the talks; however, on this occasion I want to congratulate our prime minister who was awarded the prize fairly. I would also like to congratulate Egypt's President Anwar as-Sadat, who in my opinion, also deserves the prize. I think this only proves that the propelling force behind last year's moves has been so strong that, even before finishing all the talks here, the world--or at least part of it--has decided that these two men deserve the Nobel Prize.

[Question] Moshe Dayan?

[Dayan] In addition to the congratulations which I conveyed to the prime minister during a telephone call, we also conveyed a congratulatory cable on behalf of the entire delegation. Today, in our talk with Secretary Vance, he informed us that the U.S. President has sent his congratulations to the two prize winners. We asked him to talk to the Egyptian delegation--which was scheduled to enter after us--and to propose that the two delegations send their heartfelt congratulations to the prize winners: Our congratulations to President as-Sadat and the Egyptian delegation's congratulations to Prime Minister Begin. Whether the Egyptian delegation will do this, I do not know. I hope it will. At any rate, we conveyed our congratulations to President as-Sadat through the secretary of state, in addition to the congratulations which we sent directly to Prime Minister Begin. We did this with all our hearts.

[Qital] Moshe Dayan and 'Ezer Weizman, thank you very much. [end recording]

BEGIN REACTS TO NOBEL AWARD: NEGOTIATIONS TO RESUME

TA281711Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Oct 78 TA

[Text] This evening Prime Minister Menahem Begin made his first statement in reaction to the decision to award him and Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat the Nobel Peace Prize for this year. In the garden of his house Mr Begin said: [begin recording]

[Begin] I thank the Nobel Prize Committee for the great honor bestowed upon me--a prize for peace efforts. There is none more important than it and I am grateful.

A few minutes ago I spoke with President as-Sadat on the telephone and I congratulated him on being awarded the prize. He congratulated me. Among other things, I said to him that the main prize is peace itself, and he agreed. I proposed that our two delegations in Washington resume the negotiations which were ceased yesterday.

President as-Sadat informed me that his deputy, Mr Mubarak, has already instructed the Egyptian delegation to resume the negotiations. Thus, we hope that tonight or tomorrow the negotiations between the Israeli and Egyptian delegations will be resumed. I hope that in the wake of the resumed talks we will reach total agreement and be able--this is what I said to President as-Sadat--to sign a peace treaty and invite President Carter to the signing ceremony.

As for myself, I think that the negotiations will end successfully, but the prize given to me, even before their successful completion is, in fact, awarded to the people of Israel, and I am only the addressee through whom the prize was sent to our people. I have always claimed that there are no people in the world who want peace as much as we do, and certainly not more than we. [end recording]

BEGIN READS CARTER LETTER TO CABINET; SENDS REPLY

TA291521Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Oct 78 TA

[Text] The cabinet will meet in special session tomorrow and will discuss the continuation of the negotiations in Washington. Our correspondent Zevi Lidar says that at the beginning of today's cabinet meeting, most of which was devoted to economic issues, the prime minister read to cabinet members the message he had received from the U.S. President regarding the issue of the fleshing-out plan and his answer to the President. Carter protested the Israeli decision and said that it obstructed the continuation of the negotiations. The message, our correspondent says, was strongly formulated.

Mr Begin's reply pointed out that Israel's position has always been that we have rights in Judaea and Samaria, and it had already been made clear to President Carter at Camp David that a fleshing-out plan would be undertaken in Judaea and Samaria. The tone of this message, our correspondent notes, is decisive.

ISRAELI, EGYPTIAN DELEGATIONS HOLD UNEXPECTED MEETING

TA300622Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 30 Oct 78 TA

[Text] An unexpected meeting was held in Washington last night between the heads of the Israeli and Egyptian delegations at the initiative of the Egyptian delegation.

Our correspondent reported that the Egyptian ministers, Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Butrus Ghali, contacted the Israeli delegation, asking to meet with Moshe Dayan and 'Ezer Weizman and that the meeting was held immediately thereafter. The talk lasted about 2 hours and an attempt was made to settle the differences of opinion between the two parties on the main question on the agenda--the linkage between the bilateral peace treaty and the agreement on Judaea and Samaria.

A source participating in the Washington conference told our correspondent that a meeting of the three delegations may be called for today.

CABINET DISCUSSES EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS ON DRAFT TREATY

TA301225Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 30 Oct 78 TA

[Text] And now, over to the prime minister's office for a special report on the government's session by David Essing.

[Essing] The cabinet today reviewed the current state of negotiations in the wake of the changes in the draft treaty sought by both Israel and Egypt. I understand the cabinet reviewed the latest Egyptian proposals, proposals that reportedly stick to President as-Sadat's tough stand on several issues including that of linkage.

Israel is also reported to be standing by its position as formulated in the amendments taken back to Washington by Foreign Minister Dayan and Defense Minister Weizman.

The cabinet also reportedly set up two committees; one headed by Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich will deal with the economic issues of the draft. The other committee is said to be headed by Energy Minister Yizhaq Moda'i and it reportedly will deal with the issues of Sinai oil.

This is David Essing at the prime minister's office returning you to our studios in Jerusalem.

ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN TALKS ON AUTONOMY PLAN MAY START SOON

TA291313Y Jerusalem POST in English 29 Oct 78 p 1 TA

[By David Landau]

[Excerpt] Israel and Egypt may well begin talks on the West Bank-Gaza autonomy scheme simultaneous to or immediately following the present treaty negotiations in Washington, according to well-placed observers in Jerusalem. Egypt could in this way demonstrate, in a most practical and tangible form, a "linkage" between its treaty with Israel and subsequent progress on the West Bank/Palestinian question.

Israel, the observers believe, would not--in effect could not--reject an Egyptian demand that the talks on the West Bank get under way immediately. After all, the underlying rationale of the two Camp David "frameworks" was that negotiations on the "framework for peace in the Middle East" would be conducted parallel with, or at least directly after, the negotiations over the framework for peace between Israel and Egypt."

MODA'I DISCUSSES EGYPTIAN DEMANDS FOR OIL COMPENSATION

TA271716Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1505 GMT 27 Oct 78 TA

[From the Weekly Newsreel]

[Text] Israel rejects Egypt's demand for compensation for the use and exploitation of the oil fields in Abu Rudays. This was said by the minister of energy and infrastructure, Yizhaq Moda'i, in an interview with the Weekly Newsreel. Israel is demanding Egyptian recognition of the special rights we have in the 'Alma field in the Gulf of Suez, but Egypt, says Minister Moda'i, meanwhile rejects this demand. Our correspondent on economic affairs, Yosi Melman, spoke with the minister of energy. [begin recording]

[Melman] Mr Minister, is it correct, as the communications media are reporting, that the negotiations with Egypt in Washington on oil have reached a dead end, that there are difficulties in the negotiations?

[Moda'i] What is correct is that, as in many other questions, we and the Egyptians have points of departure and, as is normal in negotiations if they proceed correctly, the points of departure are closing. This was the situation with many basic questions, some of them reached common ground, some of them are still open, and the issue of the oil in Suez is still open.

[Melman] What is Israel's position, what are the proposals Israel has submitted to Egypt's representatives in Washington?

[Moda'i] I cannot, of course, publish the proposals we have submitted, since they were submitted for the purpose of negotiation. But in principle, we are demanding an arrangement which will recognize our rights as the discoverer and developer of the oil fields, while the Egyptians are only prepared to compromise with us on arrangements for purchasing oil.

[Melman] Arrangements which will permit Israel to purchase oil at the normal world market prices, I understand?

[Moda'i] Nothing has yet, of course, been decided. As I said before, these are early stages of the debate on this issue, but there is no doubt that even in normal arrangements for purchasing oil, the fact that we will purchase oil from a country which is actually our neighbor will lead to quite appreciable savings, certainly more than marginal ones, in the price of the oil we will buy from Egypt.

[Melman] Where do Israel's investments stand, in that field, since we began to search there, with the aid of the U.S. Neptune Company?

[Moda'i] Let us say that we began to search a long time before the U.S. Neptune Company; names such as Desert, Western Desert, Hana were all active in that area, and the total investment in the search for oil in the area, which does not include the costs of development, today is more than $100 million. Of course, only a small part of that is expenses paid by the State of Israel.

[Melman] The Egyptian Government, the Egyptian representatives have announced on various occasions that they are demanding compensation from Israel for the use, since the 6-Day War, of the oil wells in Ra's Sudar, in Abu Rudays and now in 'Alma. Does this demand have any legal foundation in international precedents?

[Moda'i] In my view, there is no legal support for either the demand regarding Abu Rudays or that on 'Alma, but if we reach an overall arrangement concerning these fields, I want to emphasize that the situation is not identical in the two cases. In Abu Rudays, we received from the Egyptians--we took, if you want--from the Egyptians an existing field, a developed one, where the only activity was to continue to produce from it; while, on the issue of 'Alma, we received only sea water, and we had to invest, as I said, very appreciable sums of money in searching, discovering and then in development. Here I do not see any legal basis, or even any moral basis for this demand.

[Melman] Does the possibility appear reasonable to you that Israel should compensate Egypt for the oilfields in Abu Rudays, in Ra's Sudar, while Egypt compensates Israel for discovering the oil in the 'Alma field, including the seismological knowhow and Israel's investments in the field?

[Moda'i] No, this does not appear reasonable to me. I have already said, according to the legal advice we have, not only from Israeli experts, but also from international experts, there is no basis for this demand by Egypt to be compensated. The main reason, without going into the legal discussions, is that we were not and are not in Sinai as a conquerer, but as a country that was attacked and defended itself. One of the means of defense was taking positions outside the country, and this is how we are holding on to Sinai. We have never demanded sovereignty over Sinai, but our hold was certainly legal and will be legal as long as we hold on to Sinai. So no legal demands spring from this hold, either in the politial sphere or in that of business.

[Melman] Is the loss of the oil fields in the Gulf of Suez, particularly the 'Alma field, likely to cause a shortage of oil for Israel?

[Moda'i] The question about the loss is, of course, hypothetical. I suggest that we do not anticipate the loss, but even if there is such a development, we are organized to supply all of the State of Israel's oil requirements.

[Melman] A delegation is now visiting Israel, an economic-commercial delegation from Norway. The deputy minister of commerce, who heads the delegation, said that Norway is prepared to sell Israel oil at the prices accepted in the world market. Are contacts being held on this issue with Norway?

[Moda'i] The facts you presented do not correspond with reality, Yosi. The deputy minister of commerce and shipping is not in charge of the issue of oil in Norway. So he cannot propose anything, and he did not, indeed, suggest anything. He agreed, in a talk with me, to clarify the issue with the Norwegian minister of energy. From our viewpoint, this is systematic treatment of the various sources of oil. As you know, the policy of my ministry is intended to vary, as much as possible, the sources of oil, from the aspect of their countries of origin. Norway is certainly a friendly country, and we would be very happy to buy oil from it.

[Melman] In the various cabinet sessions and in the publicity over the communications media your image is described as one of a hawk, of one who supports harder positions in the negotiations with Egypt, particularly in, let us say, economic questions. Is this image correct?

[Moda'i] I find it difficult to understand what a political hawk is. What an economic hawk is--that is a new term which you have just now invented--but although I am not free to tell you and the listeners about the deliberations in the cabinet, including my position on the various issues what I am prepared to confirm is that my view continues to be that we must demand full compensation for the economic damages that peace will cause.

[Melman] What are these damages?

[Moda'i] I said that I am not free to go into detail, but at least these damages include the losses that will be caused by leaving a very fruitful security and civil infrastructure in the Sinai wastes, something we have built up over 11 years and that this is simply a matter of a sale, for which we are due something in return, since someone will enjoy this infrastructure. But this is not sufficient. We will also have to invest enormous sums in building security and support infrastructures in the new border zones with the Egyptians, and this does not just mean the construction of two airfields.

[Melman] And in your view, all the points you mentioned have not been sufficiently emphasized during the talks in the cabinet and the talks by Israel's representatives in Washington?

[Moda'i] The matter is not one of emphasis, but of insisting on demands. Here there are, of course, different intensities, because there is mutuality between all the types of demands; security, political, and economic. It appears to me that the balance leans too much away from the economic demands. [end recording]

SAUNDERS VISIT PROVOKED ISRAEL INTO EXPANDING SETTLEMENTS

TA2713l4Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Oct 78 p 4 Weekend Supplement TA

[Arye Zimmuqi commentary: "Saunders' Declarations Lit a 'Red Light' and Moved Begin to Decide on the Fleshing-Out"]

[Excerpts] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders' mission was a political mistake, one of the gravest the Americans have made recently. It did not just miss its objective; both Begin and others said that while the Americans often criticize us for the settlements we carry out during the negotiations, they themselves, at the peak of the peace talks, made an attempt to sabotage them.

Saunders' mission unnecessarily stirred up many of the West Bank leaders, strengthened the extremist elements among them and disrupted various moves which had been formulated to strengthen the moderate elements in the West Bank leadership. Furthermore, the Saunders mission "alarmed" many people in Israel and aroused grave fears regarding U.S. intentions in the area.

There is no end to it when people are suspicious, and so an examination began in Israel of the "magnifying glass" of every sentence and section of the draft peace treaty prepared by the United States.

Without the Saunders mission, it appears, the draft would have been accepted with much more faith by many of us who had supported the Camp David agreements. More than anything else, anger was aroused in Israel by Saunders' declarations on the matter of "conquered East Jerusalem," and the "illegal settlements in the West Bank." Nobody, of course, believed Saunders' denials of what he said in his talks with West Bank notables.

Saunders, whose mission lit a "red light" among those who reject the Camp David agreements and even among many of their supporters, must take the blame for the great suspicion created in Israel over the various clauses in the draft agreement which touch on the matter of "linkage"--the joining of the agreement with Egypt with a settlement on the West Bank and Gaza. As a result of this there was a renewed demand for a speedy fleshing out of the existing settlements in the West Bank and on the Golan heights and the planning of a series of new settlements at the end of the 3-month period.

The serious argument during the three long cabinet sessions and in the shadow of a possible coalition crisis indicates the fact that we can shortly expect a stormy public argument over the question of the settlements in the West Bank.

Under the pressure of six or seven ministers, the prime minister was forced to instruct the Israeli delegation to insist on the introduction of changes into the preamble to the draft agreement. This was because, without that, there would have been at lease some of those ministers who would have voted against authorizing the draft. Begin was not helped by the remarks of the legal experts who explained that the preamble has no legal significance, since its phrasing is most vague and noncommital. Begin agreed to instruct the delegation to take out several sentences from the text of the "preamble." This, it should be remembered, when the preamble makes almost no mention of the issues of autonomy and the West Bank and it speaks of an aspiration to arrive at a peace agreement with the various Arab countries in accordance with the Camp David agreements and Security Council Resolution 242. Had it not been for these clear directives from the prime minister, the authorization by the cabinet of the draft agreement would have been restricted to only 11 ministers.

In one of the votes in a certain cabinet forum, the draft agreement was authorized by a most restricted majority--and Begin, who read this warning signal very well, acted accordingly.

The Israeli delegation, which has now gone back to the Washington talks, is not to be envied, as its hands are tied, its authority cut back and it has to act in the framework of the directives approved by the cabinet.

Dayan and Weizman realized that, had the directives not been approved, Begin would have faced a wall of opponents--and therefore there was no escape from the compromises expressed in those directives.

Begin and Dayan spent a long time talking with Minister Hammer to persuade him not to vote against authorizing the draft agreement, not to mention the fact that a threat had been made that he might well resign from the cabinet. The prime minister and the foreign minister promised Hammer they would introduce changes in the preamble to the agreement, to stress that the agreement with Egypt does not depend on anything else and to commit themselves to fleshing out the settlements. Hammer, for his part, had no small influence on the directives given to the delegation--which determine, first and foremost, that it must receive the cabinet's authorization before it agrees to any form of draft agreement.

The delegation's authority has been restricted by the cabinet decision, which determined that it is not entitled to initial a draft agreement without submitting its text for cabinet authorization. Dayan and Weizman, who had returned to Israel convinced that they obtained the best draft of the peace treaty, were greatly surprised by the storm of feelings in the coalition and the opposition of many ministers to authorizing the U.S. document.

Dayan's explanations that Carter had made it plain to him that he was moving toward Israel as much as he could and that he had exhausted all the possibilities for the formulation of a document which Egypt could also sign, did not help.

It is difficult to expect a speedy conclusion to the Washington talks in view of the contradictory directives sent by Cairo and Jerusalem to their delegations. Whether he wants to or not, Begin will be forced to take part in the Washington talks, especially since he will be in the United States in the second half of next week, and perhaps As-Sadat will also be there.

This past Wednesday Begin succeeded in preventing a coalition crisis. For how long? Maybe not for long. And it is no coincidence that those close to Begin have begun to discuss the possibility of holding Knesset elections soon, to receive a clear mandate from the nation for his policy. They are convinced that the majority of the nation supports Begin's policy and it would be better to go to an election now on the political issues, when a mjjority is guaranteed for the list headed by Begin and when the Likud list will not include his opponents.

For the very same reason many from both the coalition and the opposition will be opposed to advancing the election.

HA'AREZ CRITICIZES EXPANSION OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

TA291425Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 29 Oct 78 p 11 TA

[Yehuda Litani commentary: "The Fencing of Land and the Forfeiture of the Autonomy"]

[Text] "For 11 years you had a wonderful opportunity to gradually improve relations between Jews and Arabs, but throughout most of that period you displayed your unpleasant side." This was maintained a week ago by three friends from East Jerusalem and from the West Bank while we were trying to imagine what form relations between Jews and Arabs would take in the period of autonomy should this come to pass.

In that same converstion they told me for the umpteenth time about the manner in which security personnel conduct searches at roadblocks and about house searches by security personnel in the villages and towns late at night. "Even if there isn't a grain of gunpowder in your house and you are a quiet and peace-loving man they will shout at you and push your wife and children and sometimes even beat you just for the hell of it," they said. They spoke from experience concerning the humiliating and depressing attitude that they meet, according to them, at the Jordan bridges. They spoke with resignation, as if the expropriation of land from many villages in the West Bank to establish settlements under the guise of security requirements were ordained in heaven.

And what about the agricultural, commercial and economic life which has developed, the improvement in the standard of living and other good things that have happened thanks to the Israeli presence? They answered, "we are not your Arabs, Israeli Arabs, you can't bribe us with agriculture, commerce and economics. And they (the Israeli Arabs) are already waking up from their long sleep. You have given little and taken much--you have taken land, houses, you have denied political and other rights and, above all, you have not shown the magnamity that a conqueror and victor should. We are now moving toward future relations between us with a bitter smile. We already know who we are dealing with. There are nice people among you, but we hardly know them. We know the military governors, the soldiers who conduct searches, merchants from the big towns in Israel and the settlers and members of Gush Emunim."

What Are "Security Requirements?"

This week, the residents of three villages in the West Bank-- all of them between Ramallah and Jerusalem--complained about the closing off and fencing in of land and the prohibition against building on their land. The mukhtar of 'Anata said that 30 Arab workers, brought by the military governer, had begun to fence in rich agricultural land belonging to the residents of the village. "Security requirements" say people in the military government. "The establishment of the settlement of Ma'ale Ha'adumim," answer the experienced residents of the village of 'Anata. Construction has been prohibited on large areas of land near the villages of Silwad and Baytuniyah. In their opinion, this is aimed at expanding the settlements of 'Ofra and Giv'on.

One of the residents of 'Anata said to me this week that under no circumstances does he believe the claim of the military government about "security requirements." He maintained that even if they build a military camp there, it would become a settlement within a short while. "Things like this happen all the time in the West Bank," he said.

For many years, the residents in the territories, especially in the villages, have desisted from appealing to the High Court of Justice over the expropriation or closing off of land by the authorities. Last year there was an awakening, and in a number of cases the High Court of Justice prevented the military government from expropriating or closing off land. The military government's new weapon is a prohibition on construction. This is what happened recently in a large area near the settlement of Bet-El. The military government first announced that the prohibition on construction was a result of "security requirements," but after the owners of the land appealed to the High Court of Justice it turned out that the "security requirements" were nothing more than the expansion of the settlement of Bet-El (at this stage the matter is still under litigation, and the High Court of Justice has decided to freeze the present situation to the dissatisfaction of the Bet-El settlers).

We are now in a 3-month settlement freeze; even according to the prime minister's narrow interpretation, we must not establish new settlements during this period. According to the official version, the establishment of a city east of the village of 'Anata only transfers the temporary settlement of Ma'ale Ha'adumim to a permanent site of its own. In fact, a new city is being built in the area, and its first residents will be the present residents of Ma'ale Ha'adumim. Infrastructure work is to start the beginning of November. If work is begun on the appointed date, this will constitute a first gross violation of the Camp David framework agreement, despite the legal camouflage of a "transfer" from a temporary to a permanent settlement.

Ma'ale Ha'adumim--at least three settlements, in different forms, have been established under this name: First, in the days of the alinement government, a workers camp was built there near a nonexistent industrial zone. Later on the workers camp changed its status and became a regular settlement, next to which an industrial zone was built. When 12 Gush Emunim settlements were established, during the Feast of Tabernacles last year, a settlement by the name of Mizpe Yeriho was established disguised as a "distant suburb" of Ma'ale Ha'adumim. Now this settlement is being established for the third (or fourth) time, and already now it is clear that the buildings at the temporary location will remain for other needs--perhaps a new settlement.

Last week's cabinet decision to immediately begin the fleshing out of settlements in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights will, first of all, cause the expropriation of additional land, closing it off and fencing it in. The cabinet decision totally ignores the fact that the reservoir of potential settlers for the fleshing-out plan is very dry (and this can mainly be felt since Camp David). Some of those pressing to flesh out the settlements are more interested in trying to torpedo the idea of the autonomy than in trying to flesh out settlements. The "fleshing-out" of settlements by expropriating, fencing in, closing off or prohibiting construction on land--especially during this period of intensive negotiations with Egypt--will not only raise barriers and difficulties in the negotiations themselves but might even totally destroy the chance of establishing an autonomy in the occupied territories.

What Do the Israelis Want?

Leaders and public figures in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip who do not reject outright the establishment of the autonomy, are being heavily pressured by strong PLO supporters, the agitated young students and from the outside not to agree to the autonomy. Some are prepared to be convinced (through talks with Israeli, American and Egyptian elements) that the autonomy provides an opportunity that should not be missed. One of the main issues that these leaders are repeatedly stressing in the talks is the question of land--government, private or other. In their opinion, unless the authorities of the autonomy have control of these lands there is no chance of self-rule, in any form, being established.

The extremists and those who reject the autonomy have now had presented to them on a silver platter a decisive argument for rejecting the idea outright. When an East Jerusalem lawyer, who does not reject autonomy, this week heard about the closing, fencing in and prohibition on construction on the land of the three villages, he said that, in his opinion, the Israelis are insincere and have no intention of implementing autonomy. "It is now impossible to turn the wheel back and begin a new framework of relations with the Palestinians from the territories, because 11 years leave a bad taste," he said. However, we can turn over a new leaf, and if we do not wish to torpedo the idea of autonomy before it is born, we must avoid expropriations and the closing off of additional land for dubious purposes.

"The fleshing out of settlements is not necessarily the adding of more settlers but, more probably, at this time, the adding of land, most of which is agricultural, private and owned by Arab residents," he said.

SHARON FAVORS NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT ON AUTONOMY

TA271054Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Oct p 5 of Weekend Supplement TA

[By Binn Barzel]

[Text] A question that was raised in political forums this week was whether it is desirable to hold negotiations with Egypt on Judaea and Samaria if there is no other partner to the negotiations--neither the Jordanians nor the Palestinians.

There were two views on this. One of the views is that the negotiations with Egypt will not bind the other partners, and that when we come to negotiations with them after the concessions we make to Egypt, we will have to make even more concessions.

In contrast with this view, Minister Sharon expressed a positive opinion on the matter. He told his confidantes that it is worthwhile to conduct the negotiations on autonomy with Egypt and to delay the peace agreement with Egypt until the negotiations on autonomy are completed. Thus, it will be possible to test Egypt's demands before Israel's withdrawal. This will prevent the danger that only after we find ourselves on the Al 'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line will we discover that we do not really have peace with Egypt because of differences of opinion regarding Judaea and Samaria.

RABIN OUTLINES VIEWS ON ISRAELI POSITION AT PEACE TALKS

TA2711587 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Oct 78 p 1 Weekend Supplement TA

[Yizhaq Rabin commentary: "These Are the Principles on Which Israel Must Insist in the Washington Negotiations"]

[Text] The Israeli delegation has returned to Washington and the peace talks with Egypt are in the decisive stage. It is true that both countries have in principle authorized the draft peace treaty which was proposed by the United States, but each side is trying to introduce changes.

Without going into the details of the proposed amendments, it is clear that Israel's and Egypt's aims are contradictory: Israel will try to strengthen the peace treaty as an agreement standing on its own and not dependent on developments in the other sectors. Egypt, as opposed to this, will search for a way to strengthen the link between making peace with Israel and the developments it hopes for in the Jordanian-Palestinian sector.

Israel has assumed, in the wake of the second Camp David framework agreement, a commitment to set up self-rule (autonomy) in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. Any attempt now by us to get out of implementing this will endanger the peace process with Egypt. Therefore, during the course of the Washington talks, Israel must insist on the fact that the peace treaty with Egypt will indeed stand on its own, and--parallel with this--act in the spirit of the Camp David agreements and open practical negotiations with Egypt and with Palestinian elements over the first stage of establishing self-rule, that is: holding the elections to the administrative council in the territories.

These negotiations must be opened after the ratification of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel by both countries. Israel must not make the beginning of these negotiations dependent on Jordan's agreement to participate in them. According to rumor, there is Egyptian thinking that if the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria refuse to cooperate with Egypt and Israel even on holding the elections to the administrative council, these elections will, for the moment, be held only in the Gaza Strip. If this happens, the implementation of self-rule will apply, in the first stage, to this area alone.

Israel must not reject such an Egyptian proposal completely. The combination of the inhabitants of Gaza with those of Judaea and Samaria--in accordance with the Israeli Government's autonomy program--into one entity is not, in any case, the desirable version for us. Therefore, if, in the wake of an Egyptian initiative, it is possible to begin with the implementation of the commitment which Israeli made at Camp David in a more restricted framework, then this would be preferable.

A second sphere, which Israel must insist upon in the negotiations, is the full implementation of normalization of relations with Egypt at the end of the first stage of the withdrawal to the Ra's Muhammad-Al 'Arish line.

One of the outstanding advantages of the Camp David agreements on the Egyptian-Israeli level is the chance to create a period of time of about 2.5 years of normal relations between the two countries before we have to withdraw to the Ra's Muhammad-Al 'Arish line and evacuate the three airfields in Sinai; and, above all, we do not have to evacuate even one civilian settlement in Sinai during this entire period.

The Israeli willingness to pay the heavy and painful price in the Camp David agreements came in order to reach full peace with Egypt. Therefore, I attach supreme importance to the first stage of building peace and testing Egypt's commitment to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel, to open the borders between us and to foster commercial and cultural relations.

All this--with the IDF still deployed along the first withdrawal line.

A third area, in which the Israeli delegation must bring satisfactory results from Washington, is in our relations with the United States. After the 1975 interim agreement with Egypt, an "agreement of understanding" was signed between Israel and the United States, in which we were promised weapons, financial aid and common political positions. After the Camp David deliberations no similar agreement was achieved, to my regret, with the United States.

Israel must demand from the United States full financial compensation for the IDF withdrawal from Sinai and its redeployment in Israel and the transfer of the civilian settlements from Sinai. Israel must also demand that the United States abstain from harmful political activity like the latest mission by the U.S. assistant secretary of state, Harold Saunders, which encourages exaggerated expectations among the inhabitants of the territories even before the negotiations over their future have begun.

All of this demands the conclusions that: We are still facing negotiations in which we will have to overcome differences of opinion with Egypt on issues involving the very substance of the Camp David agreements; we are facing difficulties between us and the United States; and, at a later stage, we also face difficulties over the way in which autonomy will be established for the 5-year transition period.

PERES COMMENTS ON SETTLEMENTS, ALINEMENT VIEW

TA271309Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 27 Oct 78 TA

[Text] This morning Israel's Labor Party met in Tel Aviv to discuss the latest political developments and afterward opposition leader Shimon Peres has asked whether the party still supported the Camp David agreements. [begin recording]

[Peres] There are two points: one is the support for the process and road to peace. On that we didn't change our mind. This was the overriding consideration when we voted for Camp David. The Labor Party is very critical of the autonomy plan as it is today, and we have decided that our automatic support won't be given in future votes.

[Question] Does that mean that you may not necessarily vote in favor of the peace treaty as it comes back for consideration?

[Answer] No, we shall vote for peace, but for the autonomy we shall have a separate vote and we shall voice our opinion, and once we shall have the Blair House [agreement] brought before us we shall call on the institutions of the party to decide about our position.

[Question] Pardon me, Mr Peres, isn't there a contradiction in your advocacy of security settlements for Israel, especially in the frontier areas, and your criticism of the government for announcing the enlargement of existing settlements in the West Bank?

[Answer] We didn't criticize enlargement of the existing settlements. We have criticized the declarations and demonstrations about new settlements. [end recording]

PRESS REACTS TO CABINET DECISION ON WAGE HIKES

TA300712Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Oct 78 TA

[Text] The Histadrut's DAVAR says that the government bears a heavy responsibility for what is likely to happen to the economy in the near future, for the government has chosen the path of confrontation with the Histadrut at a time when it would have been wiser to seek an agreement with the Histadrut on prices, wages and taxes. There is a danger of chaos, spiralling prices and constant wage disputes. The solution, DAVAR writes, lies in more efficient collection of taxes and absorption of purchasing power from the better-off sections of society.

HA'AREZ on the other hand, supports the government's decision not to raise the 15-percent ceiling on wage increases. However great the damage caused by labor disputes in the wake of the decision, it would be nothing compared with the inflation that would ensue if the government were to give in to current wage demands, the paper writes. However, HA'AREZ urges the government to make its own contribution to fighting inflation by cutting down its own expenditure.

The Jerusalem POST writes that in spite of Finance Minister Ehrlich's predictions a year ago, there has been no influx of foreign capital, exports are stagnating, imports are rising and the government is issuing more money than in the days of former Finance Minister Yehoshu'a Rabinowitz, whom Ehrlich nicknamed Yehoshu'a the printer.

The paper voices astonishment at what it calls Ehrlich's failure to foresee the economic consequences of the peace talks with Egypt and predicts that he will be unable to restrain wages or cut government expenditure due to pressure from his welfare-oriented colleagues in the cabinet. For 30 years the Israeli economy had limped from one difficulty to the next. All in all it had not done so badly, but in its 31st year, the POST warns, it shows all the signs of a complete loss of orientation.

W. BANK LEADERS AWAIT OUTCOME OF BAGHDAD ARAB SUMMIT

TA300613Y Jerusalem POST in English 30 Oct 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Anan Safadi]

[Excerpts] West Bank consultations on what to do with the autonomy scheme proposed at Camp David have come to a standstill as local leaders turn their eyes to Baghdad. A pan-Arab summit is planned there to outline a joint reaction to the Camp David peace framework accords signed between Egypt and Israel.

Several meetings scheduled for this week have been adjourned pending the outcome of the summit, which is due to open in the Iraqi capital on Thursday.

Five mayors of the largest West Bank towns have also put off a decision on whether to accept an invitation to discuss the Camp David accords with the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding at the House of Commons in London.

A number of West Bank leaders contacted by the Jerusalem POST last night said that they expected their future course of action to be affected by whatever is resolved by an Arab consensus--once, and if, this is achieved in Baghdad.

The leaders, however, appeared to be in no mood to accept an outright rejection of the Camp David peace frameworks unless the Baghdad conferees produce practical alternatives. Indications were that local leaders would join Egypt in negotiating a settlement in the West Bank and Gaza should the Baghdad summit fail to muster a pan-Arab stance on an overall Middle East settlement.

Most of the attention in the West Bank and Gaza was focused on Jordan, which reportedly plans to submit a working paper to the Baghdad summit. Well, informed Arab sources said that the Jordanian peper suggests three main options for the Baghdad summit. These are:

--An appeal to Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat not to sign a peace treaty with Israel unless the Israel Government agrees to withdraw to the pre-1967 war frontiers--including those which existed in Jerusalem--and unless Israel acknowledges the Palestinian right to self-determination in the West Bank and Gaza.

--A pan-Arab announcement turning down the Camp David frameworks and calling for the Geneva Middle East peace talks to be reconvened with the participation of all parties involved in the Middle East conflict.

--The authorization of the West Bank and Gaza leaderships to negotiate a transitional arrangement with Israel while the Arab countries take their time to realign their policies in the light of Egypt's "walkout" from the confrontation with Israel.

As far as the West Bankers and Gazans are concerned, the Baghdad summit will provide the signal for one of two alternatives: a shift by the radicals toward the peace settlement option, thus heralding a pan-Arab action in that direction; or radical intransigence whereby the local leaders may find themselves compelled to take their own fate in their own hands.

W. BANK TOWNS REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE BAYT JALA COUNCIL

TA300908Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 30 Oct 78 p 2 TA

[Text] Most of the West Bank municipalities published an announcement yesterday stating that they do not recognize the new municipal council of Bayt Jala headed by Farah al-A'raj. The municipalities do--the announcement continues--recognize the municipality which was elected by the inhabitants, headed by Bishara Da'ud.

Bishara Da'ud and two council members were dismissed from the council by the military government because of a breach of the law carrying with it disgrace (striking policemen while the latter were fulfilling their ditues).

After the dismissal (which was also looked into by the Supreme Court) four more council members, supporters of Da'ud, resigned. The military government appointed members to the council to replace them, people who had not been elected--all of them supporters of Bishara Da'ud's rival, Farah al-A'raj, who had once been at the head of the Bayt Jala municipality.

The significance of the municipalities' announcement is that Al-A'raj will not be recognized by most of the West Bank municipalities, and he will be given no cooperation--particularly on the level of political consultations held among the mayors of Judaea and Samaria.

TEHRAN REPORTS CONTINUED COUNTRYWIDE VIOLENCE

27-28 October Report

LD281218Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 28 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Demonstrations took place in a few Iranian cities last night and today, resulting in damage to public places, shops and government and national institutions. In Birjand this morning students demonstrating on the streets smashed the windows of the Shahrestani, (Khozeyni) and Alem secondary schools and the Korush Kabir art school and damaged two cinemas. A group of demonstrators also held a meeting in the city's 6 Bahman Square.

In Gorgan, various groups of people resorted to street demonstrations and marched along the city's avenues. This has taken place at a time when the city's religious leaders issued a statement expressing regret for the barbarous acts of destruction and arson and warning the people of Gorgan not to be deceived by the plots of colonialist agents.

In Yazd city, last night the demonstrators marching along the city's avenues smashed the windows of a few banks and public institutions and set fire to a few bank branches. Law enforcement officers did not interfere in any way in these demonstrations.

In Kermanshah, demonstrations organized by pro- and con-groups took place yesterday and last night. In the course of these demonstrations, it was announced by the authorities in Kermanshah Province today that the odd rumors in the city about today's onslaught by attackers on shops and institutions were without foundation and that law enforcement officers would watch over people's lives and properties.

In Sanandaj, large demonstrations took place this morning with the participation of a few thousand people. The demonstrators, in orderly columns and carrying placards and shouting slogans, marched along the city's avenues. These demonstrations continue calmly and so far no clashes have taken place.

In Hamadan, last night a group of demonstrators with national slogans and another group with anti-national slogans clashed in Asadabad district and a violent fight ensued, in the course of which a few people were wounded and one person was killed. The lieutenant-governor of Asadabad, in a telephone interview with the reporter of Hamadan's central radio and television, said: Investigations continue into last night's incident, which was coupled with losses in lives and property. Beginning this morning, forces from Hamadan's gendarmerie brigade have been keeping an eye on the situation in Asadabad in order to prevent disorders and clashes between these two groups. In the meantime, Asadabad teachers, condemning the disorders, announced that they would not return to their classes until calm is restored.

In the wake of the past 2 days' incidents in Hamadan, which culminated in setting fire to cinemas and people's homes, the municipality and governorate general buildings and a few government and private institutions, military personnel of Hamadan's armored brigade were today deployed in Hamadan city to prevent any disorder. Most secondary and other schools in Hamadan were open today and were attended by a number of pupils. Similarly, Hamadan's bazaar, which was closed for the past 2 days, resumed business today.

According to one report, a group of religious leaders in Qom and the representatives of lawyers supporting human rights left Tehran and arrived in Hamadan district and sub-districts to investigate the situation in Hamadan, Asadabad and Kabutarahang. Following this report it was announced that the strike by students from Bu Ali Sina continued as before. However, a number of Hamadan religious leaders telephoned to denounce the recent incidents in Hamadan and said that the arson and damage which took place in Hamadan during the past 2 days was perpetrated by unknown persons and that the religious community in Hamadan condemns their inhuman actions.

In Tehran, pupils and students today staged demonstrations around Tehran University. Law enforcement officers, using tear gas and firing over the heads of demonstrators, took steps to disperse them.

Further Report

LD281802Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 28 Oct 78 LD

[Excerpts] Groups of students and teachers of Rezaiyeh today held a meeting in that city's university area and demanded the full establishment of democracy. Groups of people staged demonstrations on Rezaiyeh (?main) streets, destroying several automobiles on their route. These demonstrations ended without police intervention and no one was hurt. In Pahlavi and Khayyam streets groups of demonstrators marched this afternoon, smashing the windows of several banks, movie theaters, shops and institutions. At demonstrations which took place in Rezaiyeh this afternoon, the Iran Club and a part of the youth palace were destroyed by fire. The police used tear gas to disperse the group. Several people reportedly were hurt in these demonstrations. According to our correspondent's report, some religious leaders attempted several times to prevent the window-smashing and destruction of places by the demonstrators.

Thousands of teachers, businessmen and students of Miandow-Ab today held a meeting in front of the governorate of this city to protest the attack on a group of people who were out to welcome the political prisoners of Mahabad yesterday. The people at the meeting today asked that the attackers be punished. Clashes took place at this gathering and several students were injured.

A group of students staged street demonstrations in Birjand, smashed the windows of three schools and damaged two movie theaters.

Demonstrations were staged in (Tusangan) this morning during which, several people were reportedly injured and one student has died. Windows of several banks and institutions were smashed in today's demonstrations. Demonstrations also took place in Malayer last night, during which a movie theater, several banks and shops were set on fire.

A group of people staged marches and a street demonstration at Torbat-e Haydariyeh last night, during which a movie theater and one hotel were set on fire. The security officials confronted them in order to prevent more incidents: Four officials and others were injured during these demonstrations.

According to a report by correspondents, seven people were injured and taken to the hospital during clashes with the police at today's student demonstrations in Tehran streets. All but one were released from the hospital.

According to our correspondent's report, Tehran and National Universities were closed today.

University Lectures Suspended

LD281804Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0400 GMT 28 Oct 78 LD

[Excerpt] It was announced today that lectures in the National University of Iran would be suspended until further notice. A National University of Iran spokesman said: Despite the suspension of lectures the university's hospital, educational and treatment services and administrative affairs continue and shall continue functioning as before.

Five Deaths Reported

LD291256Y Tehran PARS in English 0700 GMT 29 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Tehran, 28 Oct, PANA (PARS News Agency)--5 persons were killed and an unspecified number injured in Hamdan yesterday when residents attacked civil defence forces during shooting practice, it was reported last night. The assailants attacked the civil defence forces with sticks and stones in an effort to take the weapons of the civil defense forces. The injured has been taken to hospital.

29 October Report

LD291232Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 29 Oct 78 LD

[Text] University students and school pupils marched in a number of streets in Tehran today, while law enforcement officers kept an eye on them. Most schools and institutions of higher education were either closed or open for only a half day today. According to a report, in the course of today's demonstrations in Tehran, a shop in Orupa arcade next to the Orupa cinema in Shahahabad Street was set on fire. The cause of the fire has not yet been identified.

According to our correspondent in Qazvin, because of the disturbances of the past few days, the city's schools were not operating normally today. A great many pupils refused to attend classes and instead staged demonstrations. Furthermore, a number of students from the teachers' training college in Qazvin assembled in front of the education department and presented a resolution containing their demands.

In Mashhad, Efahan and Rezaiyeh, students, pupils and members of the education department staff held a march and staged demonstrations. Clashes took place in Esfahan between the demonstrators and their opponents, ending when law enforcement officers arrived at the scene.

In Rezaiyeh, members of the science faculty called for a week-long suspension of their research and teaching in support of the National Iranian University Organization. The bazaar was also closed today in Rezaiyeh.

Following the unrest of the past few days in Kermanshah, the shops in this town were closed. Clashes took place in Ilam between demonstrators and law enforcement officers, in which two officers and eight demonstrators were injured.

According to our correspondent in Abadan, a number of workers in this town began a march in support of their demands. Apart from one or two primary schools, all schools in Abadan are closed today.

In Bam, Ramsar, Sari and Shahsavar, a series of demonstrations took place by opposing sides. In Qom, a great many people held an orderly march today. The march started at 1200 hours from Eram Street. The schools in Qom have been closed for several days.

Further Disturbances

LD291821Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 29 Oct 78 LD

[Text] A group of people held a rally at Zhaleh Square in Tehran today and then marched to Baharestan Square. Another group, shouting slogans, poured into the bazaar region, and yet another group marched on Ferdowsi Avenue from Zorraya Street. The Tehran bazaar was closed this morning and security forces have been stationed in the area to maintain surveillance.

Most of the universities and institutes of higher education were either closed or half closed today. Groups of students held a rally on Tehran University campus this morning. Security forces were stationed on Shahreza Avenue near the campus. There were no incidents.

Demonstrations were also held at the teacher training college at about noon today and security forces were stationed in front of the college to maintain surveillance. Demonstrations were held by students in various parts of Tehran city today. Security forces dispersed the demonstrating students after they had attacked parked cars and dragged them into the middle of the streets.

The Tehran University and Melli University lecturers have protested the closure of the entrances to these universities, but the chancellors of the universities later decided to reopen the gates. As the gates reopened around noon today, students entered the campuses and staged demonstrations. The academic staff or several universities and institutes of higher education today confirmed their solidarity with the Iranian National Association of Scientific Staff.

Several provincial cities also witnessed disturbances and demonstrations today. The Rezaiyeh bazaar was closed today. Following disturbances in Kermanshah in the past few days, the shops in the city were closed today. Demonstrations were staged in the streets of Ilam today and security forces proceeded to disperese the crowd. Clashes between the security forces and the demonstrators resulted in two security officers and seven demonstrators injured. Following disturbances in Behbahan during the past 2 days, all the shops opened today.

An investigating team sent by His Eminence Haj Seyyed Kazem Shari'atmadari, the distinguished Islamic religious authority, to investigate the tragedy in Kerman has returned to Qom and submitted its report to the ayatollah. The report details the attack on the Kerman Jame' mosque, the arson and the killing by gypsies.

Our correspondent reports from Sari that groups of people staged street demonstrations this evening. There were no clashes. Teachers and educators staged a march along the city streets of Bam today. The confronted another group of demonstrators shouting national slogans, and the ensuing clash between the two resulted in six people injured. Two public buildings and several cars were set on fire in the Bam demonstrations today.

In the course of scattered demonstrations in Jahrom, a public building was sent on fire. Students in the city also staged demonstrations, but the security forces dispersed the demonstrators. Two students were injured in these demonstrations.

In the course of their demonstrations today thousands of Saqqez people demanded the punishment of the perpetrators of the bloody incidents of the Kerman Jame' mosque and also affirmed the local people's welfare demands.

Groups of students staged demonstrations in Yazd today. No clashes were reported.

Shortage of Blood Reported

LD291836Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 29 Oct 78 LD

[Text] The national blood donor organization has announced that the strike and slow-down in certain government agencies and private enterprises have resulted in a depletion of the organization's blood supply. The organization has appealed to the people to donate blood at the organization's headquarters or at the Jordan center. The organization has said it is also short of most blood groups because of a daily increasing demand.

GOVERNMENT TO REQUEST VOTE OF CONFIDENCE 31 OCT

LD291332Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 29 Oct 78 LD

[Text] The cabinet met yesterday to discuss various aspects of the situation in the country. Following the session, Minister of State for Executive Affairs Azmun announced that an emergency plan will be devised to prevent the disruption of the activity of key organizations. Referring to cabinet decisions aimed at providing greater welfare for rural people, the minister of state said: With efforts to bring about more favorable living conditions in rural areas, conditions for the return of the country's manpower resources back to the rural areas will be established. The large gap between urban and rural living conditions will be bridged with government investment, and the government will pay for providing electricity in these areas.

In conclusion, Minister of State Azmun said that the issue of the censure motion on the government was also discussed at the same session of the cabinet, and the necessary answers were drafted with regard to the nine counts incorporated in the censure motion. The censure motion was submitted to the Majlis by Mr Akhbari, deputy from Karaj. Prime Minister Shar'f-Emami will answer the nine-count censure motion and request a vote of confidence from the Majlis on Tuesday.

34 SENIOR MEMBERS OF SAVAK DISMISSED

LD291751Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 29 Oct 78 LD

[Text] According to Tehran's evening papers, 34 senior members of the Iranian Security and Intelligence Organization [SAVAK] have been dismissed from their posts. According to these reports, changes have been introduced within SAVAK and a considerable number of staff from various sections have either been dismissed or else retired. According to newspaper reports, the reason for these changes stem from a departure from the organization's previous methods of operations.

MINISTER OF INFORMATION COMMENTS ON DISTURBANCES

LD292156Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2000 GMT 29 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Bager 'Ameli Tehrani, the minister of information and tourism, said at a press conference tonight: The recent developments are a reaction to what has been happening during the past 15 years, but there are also some signs in all this of direction by certain groups which are not friendly toward the Iranian nation. The minister of information and tourism stressed: If demonstrators operate within the constitutional framework and take notice of security regulations, the government, as already promised, will abolish martial law.

AFP INTERVIEWS SHI'ITE LEADER MADARI

NC28045Y Paris AFP in English 0832 GMT 28 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Tehran, Oct 28 (AFP)--Ayatollah Shariat Madari, leader of Iran's Shi'ite Moslems, has warned that his followers might take up arms to set up an Islamic democracy in Iran. In an exclusive interview with AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE in the holy city of Qom, 140 kms (84 miles) south of here yesterday, he said, "We want the constitution to change the government. We want dictatorship to be replaced by true democracy. If the government does not accept our demands and if circumstances are in our favor, we may take up arms in the future," he added.

The leader of Iran's religious hierarchy dismissed reported differences between himself and exiled Shi'ite religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini, a vigorous opponent of the shah, now living in Paris. "Our demands are the same. Khomeini wants to set up a democratic government based on the Islamic law. This is our common objective." "He says monarchy must go for the implementation of an Islamic government. He wants a just government. So do we, the religious hierarchy living in the country," he added.

As Ayatollah Madari spoke, shouted slogans and the sound of shooting could be heard as demonstrators clashed with martial law forces.

"We the religious hierarchy and the people have no hopes from the present government any more. Its present attitude of killing people has spoiled its chances totally," he said. It had gone some way towards fulfilling its promises to begin with, but it would die a natural death, he added.

Ayatollah Madari said that the religious hierarchy had turned down a government request for talks. "Non-officials asked us to nominate a Majlis (loner house of parliament) committee of five religious people (to oversee laws brought before the house as provided in the constitution), but it is not yet a Majlis of the people, so we did not accept the proposal," he said. There was no question of free elections unless there were a trustworthy government, he added. The religious hierarchy would judge Iran's political parties on their performance, he said. The National Front, the Pan-Iranists and the Unity for Freedom parties could expect Shi'ite support if they served the interests of the people, he added.

KHOMEINI APPEALS FOR CONTINUING STRUGGLE AGAINST SHAH

LD281340Y Paris Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 28 Oct 78 LD

[Text] The Iranian religious leader Khomeini, who is currently living near Paris, has just issued another appeal to the Iranian people in which he calls on them not to abandon the position of firmness until the overthrow of the present regime and the establishment of freedom in Iran. He asks the Iranians not to be afraid of the support given to the shah by the United States, Britain and the USSR. In the message he invites the heads of the army to unite with the people in order to put an end to the exploitation of riches by a few.